



FORMER MAYOR RAY NAGIN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, July 10, 2014



Argentinian, left, and Dutch players watch the penalty shoot-out of the World Cup semifinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Wednesday, July 9, 2014. Argentina beat the Netherlands 4-2 in a penalty shootout to reach the World Cup final.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Argentina Reaches World Cup Final After Penalties

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Senator skipping Obama fundraiser for his campaign

**JULIE PACE
N. RICCARDI
Associated Press**

DENVER (AP) — A Senate Democrat in a tough re-election race skipped a fundraiser that President Barack Obama held on his behalf Wednesday, highlighting the unease of some vulnerable Democrats in being linked with an increasingly unpopular president. Colorado Sen. Mark Udall's campaign said in a last-minute switch he was staying back in Washington for a vote. Republicans quickly pointed to the news as another sign of trouble for Obama, who has been burdened by a botched launch to his signature health care program and widespread frustration with the economy. Udall is one of several Democratic senators at risk of losing their seat in November's midterm con-

gressional elections, putting Senate control within Republican reach for the first time during Obama's presidency. Losing control of the Senate would further undermine Obama's chances of passing any major legislation in his final two years in office. The Republicans already control the House and are expected to retain their majority. Obama made no mention of Udall's unexpected absence, but cast the senator's re-election as crucial to helping him move forward on his agenda during the remaining years of his presidency.

"Mark Udall is a serious person who is trying to do the right thing," he told donors packed into a Denver hotel ballroom. "He's not an ideologue. Doesn't agree with me on everything. But he believes in the core idea that should be what

Democrats are all about: the idea that if you work hard, you should be able to make it."

While Obama has called keeping the Senate one

of his top priorities, he is limited in how much direct involvement he can have in helping the most at-risk members of his party. Like Udall, most are from swing

states or conservative-leaning states like Louisiana, Arkansas and North Carolina, where close ties with the president may be more of a hindrance than



President Barack Obama pauses while speaking about the economy, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at Cheesman Park in Denver. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

New Orleans: Former Mayor sentenced to 10 years in prison

**CAMPBELL ROBERTSON
© 2014 New York Times**

NEW ORLEANS - C. Ray Nagin, the former mayor of New Orleans, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday on federal corruption charges, ending a case that began with the rebuilding of the city after Hurricane Katrina.

The sentence was less than the recommended 15 years, but Judge Ginger Berrigan of U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana told the court that the evidence failed to show that Nagin had organized or had been a leader of a corruption scheme.

"Mr. Nagin claimed a much, much smaller share of the profits of the crime than any other member of the group," Berrigan said, referring to the businessmen who profited from the scheme. The judge said Nagin's leadership was much needed after Hurricane Katrina but that it had also been lagging. Prosecutors objected to the sentence, a move

that could set up an appeal. Nagin, who will remain out on bond, hugged family and friends after the sentencing, and was quickly driven away from the courtroom.



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin speaks to reporters during a news conference in New Orleans. Nagin, who was convicted on corruption charges, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on July 9, 2014, in federal court.

(Lee Celano/The New York Times)

"I'm trusting God is going to work all this out," he said during sentencing. The judge ordered him to report for prison no later than Sept. 8.

Reaction was swift, and mixed.

"I think that he got off

lightly considering the violations of the public trust," said Edward E. Chervanek, a political science professor at the University of New Orleans and a critic of Nagin during his eight years as mayor.

"I think he should have gotten more time," says Michelle Alford, 37, a native of New Orleans and a hotel employee. "He did nothing to benefit the city. I think he should have gotten 20 years at least. I think it's ridiculous. It's ri-

diculous."

A longtime civil rights advocate in New Orleans, Jerome Smith, said he offered Nagin words of encouragement after the sentencing.

"I just let him know that he has spiritual support," Smith said.

Nagin, a Democrat, was found guilty in February on 20 counts, most relating to kickbacks from contractors looking for city work. He was arrested in January 2013, nearly three years after he left office. He was charged with taking kickbacks in the form of cash, cross-country trips or help with the family-run granite countertop company; the bribes were handed out by men looking for city business ranging from software supplies to sidewalk repair. Many of the schemes, though not all, took place after Hurricane Katrina, when contractors crowded into the city for rebuilding work.

Many of those involved eventually pleaded guilty and testified at length against Nagin at his trial. □

a help.

Udall's campaign says the senator plans to stay in Washington to vote on Obama's nominee to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He had already been planning to limit his appearances with the president. The fundraiser is off limits to news cameras. And Udall's campaign announced earlier in the week that the senator would not attend the president's economic speech in Denver Wednesday morning, ensuring that there would be no photos of the two men together.

Republicans chortled at the news that Udall would miss the second event. Alex Siciliano, a spokesman for Republican Congressman Cory Gardner, who is opposing Udall, said that now that the senator "has been called out on being a rubber stamp for President Obama's agenda he has decided to hide in Washington, D.C. instead of face voters back in his home state."

Tickets to Wednesday's fundraiser cost up to \$15,000 per couple, with the money split between Udall's campaign and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. □

White House: Border surge overwhelming government

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of children streaming from Central American nations to the U.S. border have overwhelmed the government's ability to respond, senior Obama administration officials testified Wednesday as they urged senators to agree to the president's emergency spending request for the

crisis.

But as President Barack Obama traveled to Texas, Republican opposition hardened to his \$3.7 billion request, leaving any solution unclear. At the same time, the political pressures on the president appeared to grow from all sides, as Republicans denounced him on the Senate floor, and even some Democrats began to join Republican

demands for him to visit the U.S.-Mexican border — calls the White House continued to reject.

Obama was meeting with local leaders late Wednesday on the immigration situation — but in Dallas, not at the border. He also was meeting with Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has prodded him to visit the border.

In Washington, Sen. John

McCain, a Republican who has supported Obama's stalled quest to remake the nation's immigration laws, said he could not support the president's spending request.

"I cannot vote for a provision which will then just perpetuate an unacceptable humanitarian crisis that's taking place on our southern border," McCain said on the Senate floor,

where he was joined by fellow Arizonan Jeff Flake and Texas Republicans John Cornyn and Ted Cruz. They took turns blaming Obama's policies for causing the border situation, contending that his efforts to relax some deportations have contributed to rumors circulating in Central America that once here, migrant kids will be allowed to stay.

"Amnesty is unfolding before our very eyes," Cruz said.

In the House, Speaker John Boehner was noncommittal about bringing the spending measure to a vote.

"If we don't secure the border, nothing's going to change. And if you look at the president's request, it's all more about continuing to deal with the problem," Boehner told reporters.

Meanwhile immigration advocacy groups attacked the spending request from the left, saying it was overly focused on enforcement. A group of civil liberties organizations filed a lawsuit in Seattle against the Obama administration, arguing that the federal government is failing to provide the minors with legal representation.

And even some Democrats said Obama would be well-advised to visit the border and see the situation for himself.

"Going out there and talking to people who live this day in and day out — that's the perspective that's missing," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat from border state Arizona. The White House didn't budge. Asked about Obama's decision not to go to the border, White House spokesman Josh Earnest noted that other administration officials have done so and have a detailed understanding of the situation.

"So the president is well aware of exactly what's happening," Earnest told reporters. "The president has sufficient visibility of the problem there to understand what kind of solutions are going to work best." □



Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del., left, shakes hands with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Winkowski, right, as Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Craig Fugate, second from left, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, second from right, watch on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, before the start of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the problems with the increased rise in apprehensions at the Southern border. Top Obama administration officials told senators they're struggling to keep up with the surge of immigrants at the Southern border.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Eastern US cleans up after deadly storm

JOHN KEKIS
MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

SMITHFIELD, New York (AP) — Stunned residents in several Eastern U.S. states picked through debris Wednesday and crews worked to restore power to hundreds of thousands of homes following severe storms that killed five people. Tornadoes touched down in the town of Smithfield in rural New York state on Tuesday, as well as in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Strong thunderstorms also swept through Maryland

and New Jersey, blowing down buildings, trees and utility lines.

Officials said a 35-year-old woman and her 4-month-old daughter were among those killed in Smithfield. In Manchester, Maryland, a tree fell at a summer camp, killing one child and injuring six others headed to a shelter.

Barbara Watson, the meteorologist leading the weather service survey team in New York, said the Smithfield tornado's winds were at least 100 mph (160 kph) and certainly reached undetermined higher

speeds.

A man who lives across the street from the mother and child who were killed said his home was untouched, but he said he knew immediately afterward that things were bad at his neighbor's. Wood from the home's framing and walls was scattered around the lawn, and a hot tub sat amid the rubble.

"If they were in it, they had to be gone," Gary M. Sprague said. "You can only assume the worst at that point. This is horrible, just horrible."

Undersheriff John Ball said

the dead mother was found next to an outdoor wood boiler and a neatly piled stack of wood, which were untouched.

The baby was found about 100 feet (30 meters) away in a field. Neighbors were helping sift through the rubble.

"It took a toll on everybody that was here," Ball said. "This is a rural, close-knit community."

Scattered thunderstorms were forecast for upstate New York starting Wednesday afternoon, but no watches or warnings were issued. □

Report: US spies on prominent Muslim-Americans

STEPHEN BRAUN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An online magazine reported Wednesday that the National Security Agency and the FBI covertly scanned the emails of five prominent Muslim-Americans under the U.S. government's secret surveillance program aimed at foreign terrorists and other national security threats. The report in *The Intercept*, a venture by journalist Glenn Greenwald, said the targets included an attorney, a Republican political operative, a university professor and two civil rights activists. The *Intercept* said all five denied any involvement in terrorism or espionage and had not been accused of any crimes. The magazine questioned whether the government obtained legal permission for its surveillance. The *Intercept* account said that a three-month investigation using classified documents obtained from former NSA contract systems analyst Edward Snowden showed that "the system for authorizing NSA surveillance affords the government wide

latitude in spying on US citizens." The article also said that some government training materials included a slur against Muslims. NSA and Justice Department officials denied Wednesday that American activists are targeted for criticizing the government. While not discussing the individual cases, officials said Americans are only targeted for email surveillance if there is probable cause.

"It is entirely false that US intelligence agencies conduct electronic surveillance of political, religious or activist figures solely because they disagree with public policies or criticize the government, or for exercising constitutional rights," the NSA and Justice said in a joint statement. But the White House on Wednesday ordered national security agencies to review their training and policy manuals in light of the article's assertion that a 2005 government training document contained an anti-Muslim slur.

"Upon learning of this matter, the White House immediately requested that the Director of National

Intelligence undertake an assessment of Intelligence Community policies, training standards or directives that promote diversity and tolerance," said Caitlin Hayden, a White House national security spokeswoman.

Hayden said that "the use of racial or ethnic stereotypes, slurs, or other similar language" was unacceptable. The government ordered a similar review in 2011 after several training instructors told national security and military

Declassified legal documents released over the past year by the Obama administration also acknowledged that Americans' web traffic is accidentally swept up, but separated out by "minimization" techniques. A recent



Rutgers professor Hooshang Amirahmadi answers a question as he sits at his home Wednesday, July 9, 2014, in Princeton, N.J. An online magazine reported Wednesday that the National Security Agency and the FBI covertly scanned the emails of Amirahmadi and four other prominent Muslim-Americans under the U.S. government's secret surveillance program aimed at foreign terrorists and other national security threats. The magazine identified the targeted Muslim-Americans as lawyer Asim Ghafoor, Republican operative Faisal Gill, Rutgers University professor Hooshang Amirahmadi, activist Agha Saeed and Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

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participants that mainstream Muslims supported violence.

Responding to the *Intercept* report, a coalition of 44 civil liberties groups including the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter Wednesday to President Barack Obama urging a "full public accounting" about the alleged domestic surveillance. The group also asked for a meeting with Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder and FBI Director James Comey. The *Intercept* report is not the first account to suggest Americans' emails have been swept up by the government. Documents leaked by Snowden, now a fugitive in Russia from a US law enforcement investigation, have shown that emails and other electronic files from thousands of Americans were scanned by the NSA's massive worldwide intercepts aimed at foreign users suspected of terror connections and other threats.

Washington Post report based on Snowden files warned that such accidental sweeps pick up far more US web traffic than officials have acknowledged and that the material can be held indefinitely by the government in secret repositories.

The *Intercept* account suggests that in addition to such accidental sweeps, American citizens are sometimes intentionally targeted under the same foreign-targeted surveillance. The magazine identified the targeted Muslim-Americans as lawyer Asim Ghafoor, Republican operative Faisal Gill, Rutgers University professor Hooshang Amirahmadi, activist Agha Saeed and Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group.

All five raised questions in the account about why their emails would have been targeted by surveillance. □

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Hagel says nuclear ops are drifting

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press
KINGS BAY, Georgia (AP)—Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told naval submariners on Wednesday that more attention must be paid to the nuclear forces as key to national security, in remarks that followed revelations of security gaps and other systemic problems. Speaking at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Hagel said the U.S. has let its focus on the military's nuclear responsibilities drift a bit, but two reviews are wrapping up and he will be looking at recommendations to strengthen the health of the force. He ordered the reviews of the nation's nuclear operations to find the causes of leadership lapses and other problems revealed by a series of Associated Press reports, including security gaps, cheating and other breaches within the force. "We have let our focus on the nuclear deterrence aspect of our national security drift a little," Hagel said. Many of the recent problems in the U.S. nuclear forces have occurred in the Air Force, but in February the Navy announced that dozens of senior enlisted instructors at a Navy nuclear propulsion school in South Carolina were accused of cheating on written tests that help them qualify to operate nuclear reactors. The matter is not directly related to nuclear weapons but to the nuclear power reactors that provide propulsion for Navy ships and submarines. The Navy has not announced the results of its investigation at the Nuclear Power School near Charleston. □

US Army leaders defend intelligence system

KEN DILANIAN
AP Intelligence Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)—Gen. John Campbell, the U.S. Army's vice chief of staff and nominee to lead U.S. forces in Afghanistan, cited his son's experiences as a soldier there to answer a senator's tough questions last year about a troubled intelligence technology system. But after an inquiry from The Associated Press, the Army acknowledged this week that Campbell misspoke. He also omitted key facts as he sought to defend a \$4 billion system that critics say has not worked as promised. Campbell will likely face more questions about the intelligence system at his confirmation hearing on Thursday. If confirmed, he heads to Afghanistan, where gathering and making sense of intelligence will remain a priority even as U.S. troops draw down.

Army leaders, including Campbell and his boss, Army chief of staff Gen. Ray Odierno, have circled their wagons around the Distributed Common Ground System, known as DCGS-A, a network of crash-prone software, sensors and databases that was supposed to allow troops to process and integrate intelligence from a variety of sources, from electronic intercepts to overhead imagery to spy reports. A series of independent government reports have pointed to significant weaknesses in DCGS-A. When Rep. Duncan Hunter, a member of House Armed Services Committee, visited troops in eastern Afghanistan last year, "DSGS was shut down in the corner, piled with books and papers," he said.

The Army has continued to pour money into the system despite its record of blown deadlines and unmet promises. Even more troubling to critics is how the

memo that "intelligence analysts in theater currently do not have the tools required to fully analyze the tremendous amounts of information currently avail-

the Pentagon had spent about \$35 million in recent years to equip the Marines and some army units with Palantir, compared to \$4 billion for DCGS-A.



Gen. John Campbell speaking at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Campbell, the army's vice chief of staff and nominee to lead US forces in Afghanistan, cited his son's experiences as a soldier in Afghanistan to answer a senator's tough questions last year about a troubled intelligence technology system. But after an inquiry from The Associated Press, the Army acknowledged this week that Campbell misspoke.

(AP Photo/John Milburn)

army has sought to block commanders from using an off-the-shelf commercial product that soldiers say is more workable and user-friendly than DCGS-A, even though the commercial system has been embraced by the Marines, special operations forces, the CIA and other government agencies. Army officials acknowledge problems with DCGS-A. In a statement, spokesman Matthew Bourke said the Army is working to improve the system in its next generation, which is being put out for bids next year. DCGS-A was first developed a decade ago, but the spotlight on its shortcomings grew brighter in 2010, when Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, then the top military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, said in a

able." Flynn made an urgent request for a "theater-wide, Web-based analytical platform" that sounded a lot like a product offered by a Silicon Valley startup called Palantir, which grew out of antifraud technology developed by PayPal and was valued in December at \$9 billion. Yet over the last four years, records show, Army leaders have made it difficult for some commanders to purchase Palantir. Army units that have managed to obtain Palantir report that it has saved lives in Afghanistan by helping to map insurgent activity and bomb networks in ways the Army system could not. It is also far cheaper: A 2013 Government Accountability Office report estimated that

Palantir can merge disparate data sets — cellphone calls, fingerprint and DNA records, photos, bomb incident reports — and array them on a map in seconds. DCGS-A's work stations employ a mapping program that is much more difficult to master, in a system that does not allow seamless data fusion. When soldiers update a file in Palantir, that file becomes visible to every Army Palantir user, which often is not the case across the DCGS-A network. Last April, Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, confronted Campbell with DCGS-A's litany of troubles, including that the Army's testing lab in 2012 found the system "not operationally effective, not operationally suitable and not survivable." □

As travelers wince, Airlines revising their rewards programs

JULIE WEED

© 2014 New York Times

For airline passengers, rewards programs may not seem so rewarding anymore.

Two of the nation's largest airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, have announced that in 2015, frequent flier points will be based on dollars spent on plane tickets rather than miles flown. And while another major carrier, American Airlines, has not an-

can, "mostly to pay for upgrades so we can get back some of the perks like more legroom that we used to get for free."

Every policy change has winners and losers, and airlines maintain that they are simply catering to customers who generate the most profit.

"These changes are designed to more directly recognize the value of our members when they fly United," said Thomas

than fly when she can.

Whether or not travelers benefit from the new rules depends on the length of flight, their status with the airline and how much they pay for the ticket. Passengers on United or Delta without premier status receive 5 points per dollar spent, while higher-status fliers may have their ticket prices multiplied by up to 11 in the new system.

Many travelers will be in for a surprise when they see



Darlene Martin, who says she is frustrated by the changes airlines are making to the way they award frequent flier points, in Newport News, Va., July 5, 2014. Two of the nation's largest airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, have announced that in 2015, frequent flier points will be earned based on dollars spent on plane tickets rather than miles flown.

(David Hollingsworth/The New York Times)

nounced any change, it is "watching the competitive environment," said Laura Nedbal, a spokeswoman. Leisure travelers like Darlene Martin of Newport News, Virginia, may feel as though they are on the losing side of the changes. She was surprised to discover that she would earn several thousand fewer miles than she expected when she went to Delta's website recently to see if the ticket she wanted to book to Europe next spring would bump her up to the next premier category.

"I was like, 'Seriously, you're taking another thing away?'" Martin said. The changes, she said, have left her frustrated, but she feels she has no choice but to take whatever miles she

F. O'Toole, United's senior vice president of marketing and loyalty and president of its MileagePlus program. A Delta spokesman, Anthony Black, said the company's surveys of customers showed "they understood the change and believed it was fair to reward customers based on spending."

Tim Winship, who has been following rewards programs since 1997 as editor and publisher of FrequentFlier.com, said, "The airlines want customers who fly often and buy higher-priced tickets to be happy."

But for customers like Martin, the latest changes - on top of the chipping away of amenities like meals, free bag check and ample legroom over the years - have her choosing to drive rather

how much their rewards are likely to decrease.

For example, Delta's online comparison tool shows that a \$500 round-trip flight between New York and Los Angeles would earn almost 5,000 miles now, but 2,500 miles once the new program begins.

Even Delta's highest-level fliers, those with Diamond Medallion status, would earn 5,500 points in the new program for that ticket, compared with almost 11,000 in the current system.

To benefit under the new program, a traveler will need to spend more on that flight - around \$1,000, according to the comparison tool. For the passenger who scrimps and saves, it's a new equation. □

Growing new jobs: High-Tech Servants

Nicholas Fouriezos

© 2014 Cox Newspapers

ATLANTA -- Marcus Amison pushes his grocery cart through a cavernous Costco aisle stocked with bulk cleaning supplies and faces the typical shopper's problem -- he can't find what he's looking for.

But Amison isn't your typical shopper. He wears the green, branded T-shirt of Instacart, a San Francisco-based grocery service that arrived in Atlanta June 25 and promises home delivery in as little as an hour.

Instacart is part of a growing "share economy," in which people provide personal services, unused items or rooms in their homes for profit. Even as this emerging marketplace blossoms into what Forbes predicts will pass \$3.5 billion this year, economists debate the effectiveness of an industry that creates thousands of jobs that pay little and offer no benefits.

Like Uber with car rides and Washio with laundry, Instacart uses mobile technology to connect buyers with people who'll do their shopping and deliver the goods. Orders are made online or through smartphones and relayed to shoppers. The customers save a trip to the store, shoppers get flexible jobs, and Instacart takes a cut for setting up the transaction.

Amison picks up a shrink-wrapped pack of kosher chicken thighs and scans the bar code with his smartphone. He uses a company-issued credit card to finish the purchase that includes 12 one-gallon jugs of milk, which he loads into the back of his 2000 Dodge Intrepid. "Might as well make some extra money when I can," says Amison, who works as a full-time chef at the Marriott Marquis, but makes \$15-20 an hour working 20 hours per week for Instacart.

The company was founded in 2012 by Apoorva Mehata, a former Amazon executive. It is now in 12 cities and announced in June that it had received \$44 million in financing from investors.

It is going to have to compete with a growing field of grocery delivery businesses, including Grab a Buggy and ColdLife Organics, who both deliver in metro Atlanta. Also on the horizon, Amazon Fresh and Walmart-To-Go are piloting similar programs on the West Coast. The competition is stiff for good reason: At stake is the \$586 billion of total retail grocery sales last year, of which online orders represented less than 1 percent. Instacart hopes to bypass competitors with the flexibility of an independent contractor fleet and speedy turnaround times.

The company profits by charging a small shipping fee (\$3.99 for two-hour delivery) and by marking up the prices on certain goods by as much as 20 to 30 percent.

Instacart doesn't own any warehouses or delivery cars, a stark contrast to the previous face of grocery home-delivery, Webvan, which crashed in 2001 after spending \$1 billion on warehouses and infrastructure. Its foray into the Atlanta market in 2000 was marked as the beginning of the end.

As companies like Instacart rapidly expand, they create a new type of service employee. The companies require workers, who are independent contractors responsible for paying their taxes from earnings and obtaining their own insurance, to own a smartphone and a vehicle.

Jeff Faux, founder of the Economic Policy Institute and author of "The Servant Economy," worries that an increase in insecure, relatively low-wage jobs perpetuates a growing economic problem in the United States. □

US Financial Front:

Federal Reserve split on signals for first rate increase

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials are in broad agreement that they will likely announce an end to their monthly bond buying program in October, bringing to a close the third round of massive bond purchases the central bank has relied

purchases would total a cut of \$15 billion and would be announced at the Fed's Oct. 28-29 meeting. With that final reduction, the Fed's balance sheet will be close to \$4.5 trillion, more than four times the amount of the balance sheet when the financial crisis struck in the fall of 2008. The Fed has

stead will reduce the holdings only gradually. The minutes showed that the Fed had a lengthy discussion on just how it planned to accomplish that reduction in its balance sheet but no final decisions were made. But the minutes said officials believed it will be important to have a "simple

begin selling off its holdings could have a significant impact on interest rates. The minutes showed there was a continuation of a debate central bank officials have been having over how to signal the first move to start raising its benchmark short-term interest rate, which has been at a record low near zero since December 2008. This discussion featured a range of views split between Fed officials who believed the central bank should communicate its continued concerns that inflation is too low and therefore rates needed to stay low and those who were worried that the economy might rebound in the second half of this year at a faster pace than expected and faster moves to raise rates could be warranted. In the end, the Fed statement stuck to the current guidance that rates will likely remain low for a "considerable time" after the bond purchases end. Wall Street had little reaction to the minutes with stocks extending gains in the absence of any strong signal from the Fed that its first hike in short-term rates could come sooner than investors now expect.

The minutes showed that Fed officials discounted the big drop in economic growth in the first three months as a slump that reflected temporary factors. They continued to express optimism that the economy will rebound to healthy growth rates for the rest of this year. "Fed officials were not overly worried by either the decline in first-quarter GDP or the evidence of a pickup in inflation," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics. The minutes did reveal that several Fed officials saw developments in Iraq and Ukraine "as posing possible downside risks to global economic activity or potential upside risks to world oil prices." At its June meeting, the Fed kept policy essentially unchanged, holding its key short-term interest rate at a record low near zero, where it has been since December 2008. It also made a fifth \$10 billion reduction in its monthly bond purchases, bringing them down to \$35 billion a month. Before the reductions began in December, the purchases, aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low, stood at \$85 billion per month. □



This March 2014 photo shows the Federal Reserve headquarters building in Washington. In the minutes of the Federal Reserve's June 17-18 meeting issued Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Fed officials had differing views on the best way to signal to financial markets when they might raise a key short-term interest rate. They were in broad agreement, however, that their monthly bond buying program will end in October. (AP Photo/J. David Ake)

upon to boost economic growth following the Great Recession. Minutes of the Fed's June 17-18 meeting released Wednesday showed officials were in basic agreement that if the economy continues to improve, the final reduction in bond

purchased Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities as a way to lower long-term interest rates to give the economy a boost. Fed officials have said they will not immediately start selling off the holdings, a move that could send interest rates rising. But in-

and clear approach" that could be communicated to financial markets and the public. It said the Fed expected to release a plan later this year "well before the first steps" were taken to start reducing the bond holdings. The Fed's move to

More flights arriving late; complaints rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — More flights on U.S. airlines are running late or getting canceled, and complaints are rising. The Transportation Department said Wednesday that 76.9 percent of flights arrived on time in May, down from 79.6 percent in April and 79.4 percent in May 2013. Hawaiian Airlines and Alaska Airlines, which get good weather on many routes, rank best. ExpressJet and Envoy, which fly smaller planes for big airlines, rank

last. The government says the largest airlines canceled 1.9 percent of their U.S. flights in May, nearly double the rate in April and last May. The airline industry said bad weather was largely to blame. Jean Medina, a spokeswoman for the trade group Airlines for America, said that nearly 8,300 flights were canceled due to storms in the Midwest and Northeast between May 8 and May 16, accounting for more than half of the month's cancel-

lations. Four domestic flights — all on United — and one international flight operated for United by ExpressJet were stuck on the ground longer than federal rules allow. A United spokeswoman said the airline was cooperating with federal officials investigating the incidents. Fliers filed 1,010 complaints with the government against U.S. airlines in May, up from 720 a year earlier. About half involved flight problems such as delays and cancellations. □

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Theme park CEO says job is about making memories

JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

SANDUSKY, Ohio (AP) — Standing in the shadows of a \$30 million roller coaster that flips, drops and spins its riders, the head of the nation's fourth-biggest amusement park company points to another addition at Cedar Point he's proud of too — a shady spot to relax and munch on taffy and fudge.

It's not the most exciting part of the park along Lake Erie that boasts 17 roller coasters, but he thinks these little extras will keep families coming back.

Matt Ouimet has spent his first two years as chief executive of Cedar Fair Entertainment Co. making sure that the chain's 11 amusement parks across the country have plenty of attractions for all ages.

New additions include shows featuring Cirque du Soleil-type acrobats, strolling bands and family-oriented rides along with nighttime shows and fireworks that are designed to keep people in the parks longer.

"We're thinking about people who aren't coaster rid-

ers," Ouimet said. "I think that's where we differentiate ourselves."

Once a regional amusement park chain, Cedar Fair has become an industry giant. It brought in 23.5 million visitors last year to its amusement and water parks, including Cedar Point and Kings Island in Ohio, Canada's Wonderland outside Toronto and Knott's Berry Farm near Los Angeles.

Known for big roller coasters and kiddie rides themed to the "Peanuts" comic strip characters, Cedar Fair's four big amusement parks have the highest attendance numbers in North America outside the year-round theme parks in Florida and California, according to the Themed Entertainment Association, an industry group.

Ouimet, who spent 17 years with the Walt Disney Co., believes creating memories is more important than thrills and that reaching out to children and young families will result in a lifetime of return trips. He calls it genetic vacation behavior — it's why tourists go to the same beach or resort



The roller coaster, The Intimidator, at Carowinds in Charlotte, N.C. Carowinds, which straddles the Carolinas, is in the beginning of a \$50 million expansion over the next several years. The company also is trying to attract an outside party to operate a hotel near the park.

(AP Photo/Carowinds, Mikki Hughes)

town year after year.

"That's why we want to offer something for everyone," he said.

Cedar Point, the company's flagship park in Sandusky where it also has its headquarters, added two new family rides this year with just enough thrill to keep the entire family happy.

"We didn't have rides that parents wanted to ride with their kids," Ouimet said. "This is the start."

Knott's Berry Farm has a spruced up its Camp Snoopy section, and Canada's Wonderland near Toronto opened an interactive indoor ride that is part roller coaster, part haunted house with a 500-foot long screen where riders battle dragons and other creatures.

The characters on the screen can be changed to create a different experience during the park's Halloween events.

It's the type of ride found at one of the Disney or Universal theme parks, and one that Ouimet likes because it embraces a new technology and could work easily at Cedar Fair's other parks.

All of this doesn't mean a move away from roller coasters.

Kings Island near Cincinnati unveiled a new inverted coaster this year and Cedar Point's GateKeeper opened last year, transforming the park's front entrance where the coaster soars overhead while flipping riders upside-down.

Cedar Point, with a handful of hotels and a separate water park, has become a destination resort. Now Ouimet's attention is on expanding some of the company's other parks that are under-sized for their markets.

One is Valleyfair outside Minneapolis and the other is Carowinds near Charlotte, N.C.

Carowinds, which straddles the Carolinas, is in the beginning of a \$50 million expansion over the next several years. The company also is trying to attract an outside party to operate a hotel near the park. □

Visitors wait 5 hours for Harry Potter ride

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — You might need a magic wand to get on the new Harry Potter ride at Universal Orlando Resort.

For a second day in a row, visitors waited up to five hours to get on the ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, located in the new Diagon Alley section of Universal Studios. A day earlier, on the first day Diagon Alley was open to the public, visitors waited for as long as seven hours.

A sign at the entrance to the 3-D ride at midday Wednesday said the wait would be 300 minutes.

"We're not going to wait," said Eric Poudrier after snapping a photo of the wait time. He was visiting with his girlfriend and 2-year-old daughter from



This image released by Universal Orlando shows guests at Diagon Alley at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando, in Orlando, Fla., on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. For a second day in a row, visitors waited up to five hours to get on the ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, located in the new Diagon Alley section of Universal Studios. On Tuesday, July 8, on the first day Diagon Alley was open to the public, visitors waited for as long as seven hours.

(AP Photo/Universal Orlando, Sheri Lowen)

Montreal.

Tammy Clark and her 11-year-old son, Ethan, also decided to skip the ride after seeing the line.

"It's a five-hour wait," said Clark, of Bridgeport, W.Va. "You won't be able to see anything else."

Juan Sigler, his wife Susy

and their two children, Samantha and Steven, arrived at the park after 7 a.m., got in line and didn't exit the ride until well after noon. But they said it was worth a five-hour wait since they felt immersed in Harry Potter's world.

"It has great special effects and you see the central characters," said Susy Sigler, of Pembroke Pines, Fla.

The ride is the centerpiece of the new Harry Potter section. It combines a roller coaster ride with 3-D projections featuring characters from the Harry Potter books and movies. The rest of Diagon Alley consists of seven detail-heavy shops selling merchandise such as wizard robes and interactive wands that allow visitors to perform wizard tricks throughout the section. □

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Kerry urges China to reduce tensions in nearby seas

JANE PERLEZ

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BEIJING - In a closed-door session at a high-level gathering of Chinese and U.S. officials here Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry urged China to follow maritime law in nearby seas to reduce regional tensions, a senior U.S. official said.

Kerry called on China to support the creation of a legally binding code of conduct that other Asian nations are considering to enforce rules of navigation and inhibit unilateral actions in the South China and East China Seas, said the official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under standard protocol.

The secretary met with Yang Jiechi, a state counselor who deals with foreign policy, on the first day of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, an annual gathering of senior officials from both countries where differences on issues including national security, the economy, climate change and human rights are aired.

"The secretary emphasized this is not a situation in which countries should or can be permitted simply to act unilaterally to advance their territorial claims or interests," said the official, alluding to China's dispatch of a huge oil rig to disputed waters off the coast of Vietnam in May and the virtual takeover in 2012 of a reef, the Scarborough Shoal, that is claimed by the Philippines.

Kerry also said efforts to create a "new status quo" at the expense of regional harmony were "unacceptable," the official said.

Maneuvers by China to assert claims over islands and waters in the South China Sea, and to slow the efforts

of a regional group, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to complete a code of conduct that would govern maritime rules have become

a major point of friction between Washington and Beijing. The South China Sea is one of the world's busiest trading routes. President Xi Jinping opened

the two-day event, saying that a solid relationship between China and the United States was vital for everyone. "Cooperation between China and the U.S.

will benefit the world, while the opposite will bring disaster," Xi said.

He also stressed China's economic and military strength. □



U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, left, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, second left, and China's President Xi Jinping, third left, talk as they leave the stage after Xi addressed the opening session of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue known as the "S&ED" at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China Wednesday, July 9, 2014. (AP Photo/Jim Bourg, Pool)

Obama urges calm in Afghan presidential election

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

KABUL/WASHINGTON

(AP) — President Barack Obama has taken the unusual step of intervening in a foreign election, asking both candidates in Afghanistan's disputed presidential race to allow the process for investigating fraud claims to go forward and threatening a cutoff in U.S. aid if "extra-constitutional measures" are taken.

Obama called the leading candidate, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, on Tuesday,

the day after he spoke to Ghani's opponent, Abdullah Abdullah. The White House said Obama told both candidates that the U.S. expects fraud allegations to be thoroughly reviewed, urging the two men to seek a resolution that doesn't undermine Afghanistan's fragile national unity.

"He also noted that there is no justification for resorting to violent or extra-constitutional means, which would result in the end of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan," the White House said in a

statement.

The firm warning appeared to be directed mostly at Abdullah, who told thousands of supporters on Tuesday that he will declare victory, amid calls from some of his supporters for Abdullah to form a "parallel government."

Abdullah claims massive electoral fraud is behind the preliminary results from a runoff vote that put him a million votes behind Ghani. He said Tuesday he doesn't accept the results of the fraudulent vote.

White House press secre-

tary Josh Earnest said the process of judging the fraud allegations must be allowed to conclude.

"The preliminary results are not final or authoritative and may not predict the final outcome," he said.

It is unusual for a U.S. president to speak to foreign political candidates during an election, but Obama thought it was important to reach out given the seriousness of the situation and the U.S. interest in maintaining stability in Afghanistan, the White House said. □

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The German defense ministry is pictured through a fence in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, July 9, 2014. German authorities are investigating a second spy case reportedly involving the U.S., a week after the arrest of a German intelligence employee cast a new shadow over relations between the two countries.

(AP Photo/dpa, Maurizio Gambarini)

Alleging US involvement; Germans investigating second spy case

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities are investigating a second spy case reportedly involving the United States, a week after the arrest of a German intelligence employee cast a new shadow over relations between the two countries.

Federal prosecutors said Wednesday that police raided properties in the Berlin area on "initial suspicion of activity for an intelligence agency."

"They did not elaborate or specify what intelligence agency was involved, but said they had not made an arrest."

"We have investigations in two cases of suspected espionage, a very serious suspicion," government spokesman Steffen Seibert later told reporters in Berlin. He declined to provide further details, citing the ongoing investigations.

The daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported, without

naming sources, that the man being investigated worked at Germany's Defense Ministry and is suspected of spying for the U.S. News website Spiegel Online reported, also without naming sources, that the man worked in a department dealing with international security policy and had aroused the suspicion of Germany's military counter-intelligence agency because of his close contacts to alleged U.S. spies.

Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Col. Uwe Roth declined to confirm the reports, but said the case fell "into the ministry's area of responsibility" and that Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen had been informed.

State Department officials traveling with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Beijing had no immediate comment.

The White House also decided to comment, al-

though press secretary Josh Earnest reiterated that the U.S. appreciates its "important partnership" with German national security officials. He said diplomats from the two countries were working to resolve circumstances surrounding the reports.

Last week, a 31-year-old German intelligence employee was arrested on suspicion of spying for foreign powers since 2012. German media have reported that he spied for the United States and came to authorities' attention when he recently offered his services to Russian officials in Germany by email.

The case has frayed relations between Berlin and Washington, which were already strained by reports last year that the National Security Agency had targeted Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone and conducted mass surveillance of Internet traffic in Germany. □

Ukraine Poll: Public opinion against Russia hardened after intervention

MARJORIE CONNELLY

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In the wake of its military intervention in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, Russia is widely disliked in Europe, the Middle East and the United States, according to a Pew Global Attitudes poll released Wednesday. The leadership of President Vladimir Putin inspires little confidence, the survey found. And while most Russians think Putin will do the right thing in international affairs, few people in the other countries surveyed have faith in him.

The negative views of Americans and Europeans have become particularly pronounced toward Russia over the past year, rising by double digits in many countries. In Poland, for example, 81 percent of those surveyed had an unfavorable opinion of Russia, compared with 54 percent in 2013.

The British were evenly divided about Russia in 2013: 38 percent had a favorable opinion and 39 percent were unfavorable. Now, only 25 percent had a positive view of Russia, while 63 percent had a negative view. Greece, where 61 percent of those surveyed had a favorable opinion of Russia, was the only European country where opinions were basically unchanged.

Not surprisingly, Ukrainians' attitudes toward Russia have changed significantly. In 2011, which was the last time Pew conducted a poll there, more than 8

in 10 Ukrainians had a favorable opinion of Russia. Now only 35 percent of respondents have a positive view. Within Ukraine, there are deep divisions based on geography and language. Residents of the western part of the country were most unfavorable toward Russia, while Russian-speakers in the east were less unfavorable. Russia is increasingly disliked in Latin America, although the increase is not as striking as in the United States or Europe.

The African nations surveyed by Pew generally viewed Russia fairly favorably, with the exception of South Africa, where 51 percent had a negative view. In Asia, most of those surveyed in Bangladesh, China, and Vietnam had a positive opinion of Russia, while most Japanese respondents had a negative view.

Russia has been unpopular in the Middle East for the past several years, although attitudes can differ by religious group. For example in Lebanon, most Sunnis and Christians had an unfavorable opinion, while Shiites looked more favorably on Russia.

As with opinions about Russia overall, attitudes toward Putin's handling of international affairs were consistently negative in the United States and across Europe. Eighty percent of Americans said they had little or no confidence that Putin would do the right thing with his foreign policy. □



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Israel steps up offensive as diplomacy kicks off

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With rockets raining deep inside Israel, the military pummeled Palestinian targets Wednesday across the Gaza Strip and threatened a broad ground offensive, while the first diplomatic efforts to end two days of heavy fighting got underway.

Egypt, which has mediated before between Israel and the Hamas militant group, said it spoke to all sides about ending the violence. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was in touch with Israel to try to lower tensions. And the United Nations chief warned of a "deteriorating situation ... which could quickly get beyond anyone's control."

As the Palestinian death toll rose above 60, neither side showed any sign of halting their heaviest fighting since an eight-day battle in late 2012.

Israel said it hit more than 300 targets and Hamas positions throughout Gaza, including rocket-launchers, weapons-storage sites and tunnels that it said the group uses to carry out attacks.

The military said 74 rockets landed in Israel, including one that reached the northern city of Hadera, the deepest rocket strike ever from Gaza.

"Hamas will pay a heavy price for firing toward Israeli citizens," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "The operation will expand and continue until the fire toward our towns stops and quiet returns."

Israel began the offensive Tuesday in response to weeks of rocket launches, and officials said the air-strikes would continue until the firing stops. At least 20 civilians were among the

61 deaths reported by the Health Ministry in Gaza. There have been no serious casualties on the Israeli side.

Thousands of Israeli troops massed near the Gaza border, the possibility of a ground invasion grew larger — along with the risk of

heavier casualties on both sides.

"Despite the fact it will be hard, complicated and costly, we will have to take over Gaza temporarily, for a few weeks, to cut off the strengthening of this terror army," Yuval Steinitz, Israel's intelligence minister,

told Israel Radio. "If you ask my humble opinion, a significant operation like this is approaching."

The government has authorized the army to activate up to 40,000 reservists, and Israeli TV stations said about a quarter of those forces had been called up,

signaling a decision on a ground invasion could still be days away.

A ground offensive in Gaza would be a risky gamble for Israel. It could lead to heavy civilian casualties on the Palestinian side and trigger strong international criticism, as was the case during one that killed hundreds of Palestinians in 2009. Israeli troops would also be at much greater risk if they enter Gaza's crowded urban landscape, home to 1.8 million people, especially for a long-term presence.

Tal Russo, a former general who retired last year as head of Israel's southern command, said a ground offensive did not guarantee success.

"There is no such concept as 'decisive,' and that needs to be understood," he told Channel 10 TV.

Israeli security officials say they have prepared different scenarios inside Gaza, ranging from a quick pinpoint operation to a full re-occupation of the seaside strip. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005. □



Smoke and debris rise after an Israeli strike on the Gaza Strip seen from the Israeli side of the Israel-Gaza Border, Wednesday, July 9, 2014. The military said it struck about 200 Hamas targets on the second day of its offensive, which it says is needed to end incessant rocket attacks out of Gaza.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

Iraqi leader accuses Kurds of hosting militants

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The ethnic and sectarian tensions that threaten to tear Iraq apart flared Wednesday as the prime minister accused the Kurdish self-rule region of harboring the Sunni militants who have overrun much of the country, and 50 bodies were discovered dumped in a village south of Baghdad. It was not clear who the men were or why they were killed, but such grisly scenes were common during the dark-

est days of the Iraq war, and the deaths raised fears of another round of sectarian bloodletting. Many of the victims were bound, blindfolded and shot in the head. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's allegations, made in his weekly televised address, are likely to worsen Baghdad's already thorny relationship with the Kurds, whose fighters have been battling the insurgents over the past month. The accusations would also seem to dampen the prospect of reconciliation that

the United States, the U.N. and even Iraq's top Shiite cleric say is necessary to bridge the country's ethnic and sectarian divisions and hold Iraq together. The militant offensive spearheaded by the Islamic State extremist group has plunged Iraq into its worst crisis since the last U.S. troops left the country in 2011.

The jihadis have been joined in their assault by other Sunni insurgents, feeding off the anger in their minority community against the Shiite-led government. On

the other side, Shiite militias have rallied around al-Maliki's government to fight off the insurgents.

In the far north, meanwhile, Iraq's Kurds have taken advantage of the mayhem to seize disputed territory — including the city of Kirkuk, a major oil center — and move closer to a long-held dream of their own state.

The Kurds say they only want to protect the zones they have entered from the militants, but many of the areas have significant Kurdish populations. □

US and Cuba hold migration talks in Washington

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — U.S. and Cuban officials discussed efforts to combat illegal migration, human smuggling and migratory document fraud in Washington on Wednesday, a rare moment of dialogue between countries that cut ties more than five decades ago. The latest round of biannual migration talks was carried out in a "respectful environment," Cuba's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It added that Havana was pleased the two nations agreed in early July to en-

force a search-and-rescue protocol for distressed persons on the high seas. There were also points of contention. Cuba aired concerns about banking difficulties for its diplomatic missions in the United States that have led it to cut consular services at the two outposts. It also complained again about policies letting Cuban migrants who reach U.S. soil stay and apply for residency after a year.

"The Cuban delegation insisted that alien smuggling and illegal migration would not be eradicated, nor could there be a legal, safe and orderly migration between the two countries, as long as the 'wet foot/dry foot' policy and the Cuban Adjustment Act remain in force," the statement said. The talks are supposed to be held every six months to monitor the implementation of 1990s migration accords, and often touch on other areas of mutual concern. They were suspended in 2011, the same year Cuba sentenced U.S. government development subcontractor Alan Gross to 15 years in prison after he was

detained with restricted communications equipment while working to set up Internet networks for Jewish groups on the island. Talks resumed two years later, along with separate discussions on re-establishing direct mail service between the two countries. A U.S. State Department statement called the talks routine and said they did not indicate a change in policy toward Cuba. It added that they were consistent with U.S. interest in ensuring safe, legal and orderly migration between the countries, and an op-

portunity to talk about things such as civil liberties. "In our interactions with the Cubans, the United States also regularly raises our concerns about the continued detention of Alan Gross, the poor state of human rights in Cuba and fugitives from U.S. justice," the statement said.

Havana has said it is willing to talk about Gross' case and any other matter, but it also wants to negotiate the fate of three Cuban intelligence agents serving long prison terms in the United States.

Official in World Cup scalping case gives up credential

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The director of a World Cup hospitality company implicated in ticket scalping surrendered his tournament credentials on Thursday. The MATCH group, which owns rights to sell World Cup hospitality tickets, says Ray Whelan denies wrongdoing. MATCH acknowledged Whelan and Algerian national Lamine Fofana discussed cash sales of World Cup final tickets for \$25,000 in telephone calls wiretapped by Rio de Janeiro police.

"The 24 hospitality packages were offered on cash basis, which is highly unusual but permitted under the various terms and conditions," MATCH said



Pedestrians cross a street in front of the Copacabana Palace where Ray Whelan, of MATCH Services, is staying, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Whelan, the director of the World Cup hospitality company implicated in ticket scalping surrendered his tournament credentials on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Leo Correa)

in a statement. "It must be noted that Mr. Whelan was not aware of the fact that MATCH Hospitality had internally blocked sales to Mr. Fofana.

The tickets being offered had originally been requested by a Rio de Janeiro hotel chain which reduced its order by \$594,000 in May, MATCH said.

MATCH challenged police to justify the "arbitrary and illegal" arrest of Whelan, a director of MATCH's accommodation service. He is a brother-in-law of company founders Jaime and Enrique Byrom.

Whelan was detained at a Rio hotel on Monday by police who seized tickets for World Cup matches. He was released early Tuesday.

Land dispute erupts among ultra-wealthy in Bahamas

ALISON LOWE

Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A land development dispute between some of the world's wealthiest people in one of the world's most exclusive communities has escalated on a small island in the Bahamas. More than 100 people, including actor Sean Connery and former U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, have filed a legal complaint against the Bahamian government over

an effort by eccentric fashion mogul Peter Nygard to redevelop his Mayan-themed compound in the Lyford Cay community. The complaint was filed this week and accuses the government of lacking transparency during a public consultation period as Nygard seeks to rebuild his 150,000-square-foot (13,935-square-meter) complex in the exclusive community at the western tip of New Providence island, home to the capital

of Nassau.

A Nygard spokesman did not return messages for comment. The complex, heavily damaged in a 2009 fire that authorities say was accidental, had been featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." Visitors to the compound before the fire included former U.S. President George Bush, actor Robert DeNiro and late singer Michael Jackson. Those who filed the com-

plaint accuse the government of withholding public records related to work on Nygard's compound. They also say Nygard, owner of Canada's largest apparel company, previously caused significant environmental damage during continuing renovations that they say occurred without the required permits. In addition to redeveloping his compound, known as Nygard Cay, Nygard is seeking to develop and gain access to land sur-

rounding his property, prompting an outcry from other residents. The complaint they filed seeks a judicial review of the process, and the Bahamas' Supreme Court is expected to soon review the lawsuits to determine if they can proceed to the next stage.

Brady, the former U.S. treasury secretary, told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday that he has been traveling to the island since 1949.



Of White Modern Cuisine Fame; Aruba's Celebrity Chef Urvin Croes Cooks Up A Storm in Mexico

PALM BEACH - Aruba's very own celebrity chef, Urvin Croes, proprietor White Modern Cuisine, winner Iron Chef Competition 2013, was invited by the Kendall Jackson Winery to participate in the prestigious Culinary Series in Mexico, as the winery's Brand Ambassador.

The event in Mexico, a monthly gathering of chefs from around the globe, embraces two culinary soirees each time, the first one considered a Cooking Demo where the featured celebrity chef conceives and executes a special menu for a select group of 40 connoisseurs, and the second one, a five-course gala showcase, where the extended same menu is served to 150 party-goers. The food prepared in the kitchen theater by the featured celebrity chef is expertly paired with wines by wine artist Robin Calkins, Vice President, the winery's Project Manager in charge of Retail Development.

Chef Croes reports that the variety of wines which were served with his food, such as Pago Cimeria Wines from Argentina and Yangarra Estate Wines from Australia, lent the evening its global appeal and international flavor. The chef also adds it was a real pleasure making his signature dishes with fresh Mexican local market ingredients. The main purpose of this trip, he states, was to promote Aruba as a culinary destination, and establish the island as a progressive favorite for wine and food lovers. Staying at the El Dorado Royale all-inclusive Gourmet Hotel, the chef worked hand in hand with the Executive Chefs Eric Peters and Manoli Rodriguez, who were both very helpful with



the preparations for the Culinary Series. White Modern Cuisine in Aruba has been working with Arion Wine Company, purveyors of Kendall Jackson wines, for an extended period of time, and prides itself on its excellent wine card. Additionally, since the opening of the restaurant, the Kendall Jackson Winery has sponsored an annual Wine Master Dinner there, which always enjoys resounding success. Pictured here, Chef Urvin Croes, from Aruba, in Mexico, cooking exhibition style. □



A Patriotic Evening at the Casino at the Radisson

PALM BEACH - The Spin to Win, 4th of July Slot Tournament at the Casino at the Radisson featured winners galore from a mixed crowd of visitors and locals. The patriotic evening started with a signup at 5pm, and tournament action from 6pm. Guests were asked to buy in at \$10, and re-buy at \$4. Prizes were awarded for the Most Cheerful Participant, the Most Patriotic Participant, as well as the Special Rookie of the Night award. With five rounds of tournament concluded Maria Lampe, Jose Ridderstap, and Monica Koc received cash prizes while Maria Quevedo, Joseph Gaburri, Omaira Krozendijk, Mara Gaburri and Ron-



nie Michelino received \$50 free play consolation prizes, reports Caroly Croes, Casino Sales and Marketing Hostess.

With daily double points on slots from 12 noon to 3pm and on Saturday & Sunday from 4pm to 6pm, the Casino at the Radisson is open

daily from 12noon to 4am, Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 4am. For information call Tel: 526-6930. □

Vincent and Leah Carbonell honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Ambassadors of Goodwill, at the Marriott Ocean Club. The symbolic

honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Vincent and Mrs. Leah Carbonell of Berlin,

Connecticut. Vincent and Leah are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and this year they brought 18 friends with them to the island to celebrate their 22nd Anniversary! They love Aruba for the weather, beaches, restaurants and



they love to be with their Aruban friends at the resort. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the

Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Lisette Bouwman and Ms. Lilian Britten representing the Marriott Ocean Club. □

Donald and Lisa Shauger honored at the Casa Del Mar Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice

couple who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort as Ambassadors

of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Donald and Mrs. Lisa Shauger of

Randolph, New Jersey. Donald and Lisa are loyal members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort, and they love Aruba very much, because of the great extremely friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants and

Aruba is the paradise for them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Nohely Cannegieter representing the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort. □





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Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Caribbean Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Caribbean Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handi-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Caribbean Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

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The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



Dinner at Fishes & More was great for Diane and Tom Lombardi



PALM BEACH - Diane and Tom Lombardi from Staten Island, NY, had a wonderful surf and turf dinner of tuna and lobster at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden. They saw an article in one of the papers about this popular restaurant and wanted to try it. Although

this has not been their first trip to Aruba, it was the best ever and the food was a big part of it. "This is a terrific island," they say. The Lombardi's are beach lovers, so Aruba is one of their favorite holiday destinations. Fishes & More is one of the restaurants that make up

the Arawak Garden, which is located across from the Occidental Resort on the hi-rise strip.

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Argentina's goalkeeper Sergio Romero saves a shot from the penalty spot by Netherlands' Ron Vlaar in the shoot-out of the World Cup semifinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Argentina reaches World Cup final after penalties

Defending champion Chris Froome drops out of Tour de France

Britain's Christopher Froome gets into his team car as he abandons the race following a third consecutive crash in two days during the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 155 kilometers (96.3 miles) with start in Ypres, Belgium, and finish in Arenberg, France, Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Associated Press
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MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Goalkeeper Sergio Romero saved two penalties Wednesday to send Argentina into the World Cup final with a 4-2 shootout win over the Netherlands after the game finished in a 0-0 stalemate.

A day after Germany lit up the World Cup with its clinical 7-1 destruction of host Brazil, the Netherlands and Argentina could not manage a goal between them in 120 minutes before the shootout.

Romero — thought to be a weak link in this Argentine team and not even a starter for his Monaco club most

of last season — blocked penalties by Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder. For Argentina, Lionel Messi, Ezequiel Garay, Sergio Aguero and Maxi Rodriguez all converted their spot kicks.

"It's luck, that's the truth. You can dive (the right way) and not make it, like happened to their goalkeeper," Romero said. "I had confidence, thank God things turned out well."

In a matchup of two of football's powerhouse nations, two-time champion Argentina will play three-time winner Germany in Sunday's final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

That means an extra bitter end to the tournament for Brazilians, who will have to watch their fiercest rivals play for the world title in their most hallowed stadium against a team that humiliated their nation in the semifinals.

It was the second straight penalty shootout following a 0-0 draw for the Dutch. Against Costa Rica in the quarterfinals, coach Louis van Gaal brought on substitute goalkeeper Tim Krul in the last seconds of extra time to replace Jasper Cillessen and Krul saved two spot kicks.

Continued on Page 20

Cavs agree to 3-way trade, make room for James

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writers

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cavaliers have cleared a path for LeBron James to return to Cleveland.

They've made their moves. They're just waiting for him to make his.

The Cavs created enough salary-cap space to offer the superstar free agent a maximum contract on Wednesday agreeing to trade guard Jarrett Jack, swingman Sergey Karasev and center Tyler Zeller in a three-team deal with Brooklyn and Boston, a person familiar with the deals told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because teams are not permitted to discuss trades until the league's moratorium ends Thursday.

The maneuvering is designed to open room under the salary cap so they can re-sign the Akron-born James, the four-time league Most Valuable Player and most sought after player on the market.

Not long after making the trade with the Celtics and Nets, the Cavs had exploratory discussions with the Minnesota Timberwolves about a possible trade for three-time All-Star Kevin Love — if James does return to Cleveland, said a person with knowledge of the inquiry.

The Timberwolves would be looking for No. 1 overall



In this Dec. 28, 2013 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Jack (1) drives past Boston Celtics' Phil Pressey (26) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston.

draft pick Andrew Wiggins to be part of any potential package from Cleveland in order to consider parting with Love if the talks were to become more serious, the person said, speaking with the AP on condition of anonymity because neither team publicly announced the conversation.

Whatever the Cavs' next move is — with or without James — they could package together their other assets, including future first-round picks, to make a run at other All-Star players.

Meanwhile, James had his meeting in Las Vegas with

Miami president Pat Riley. James, his agent Rich Paul, Riley and Heat executive Andy Elisburg were at the meeting, a person with direct knowledge of the discussions told The AP. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither side publicly announced who would be attending the meeting or when it would take place. James has not made a decision and will not make any announcements before Thursday, the person said.

With nothing finalized, LeBronathon 2014 will last at

least one more day with the NBA — and fans in Miami and Cleveland — on edge.

In the three-team trade the Cavs pulled off earlier Wednesday, Cleveland will receive guard Marcus Thornton from the Nets and send him, Zeller and a future first-round pick to the Celtics. Also, the Cavs are trading Jack and Karasev to the Nets.

Jack, who signed with Cleveland as a free agent last season, was scheduled to make \$6.3 million, Zeller will make \$1.6 million and

Karasev \$1.4 million

In trading those salaries, the Cavs have enough to give James a maximum, \$20.7 million contract — if he decides to sign with Cleveland. James played his first seven seasons with the Cavs before leaving as a free agent in 2010, and it's apparent the team is doing everything it can to bring him back.

Under NBA rules, teams must abide by a salary cap set by the league. If the combined salaries of the team's roster surpasses the cap, teams are forced to a pay additional taxes. Last season, the salary cap was approximately \$59 million, and the league announced Wednesday that it will increase 7.5 percent to an all-time high of \$63.065 million for the 2014-15 season. The tax level — the point at which a team is penalized for exceeding the salary cap — for next season has increased by 7.1 percent to \$76.829 million.

ESPN first reported details of the three-team trade.

Jack's first season with Cleveland didn't go as he or the Cavs had hoped. He signed a four-year, \$25 million deal last July after playing in Golden State. The Cavs counted on him being a leader for their young team, but it didn't work out as Cleveland finished 33-49, missed the playoffs and fired coach Mike Brown.

NL Capsules

Cards beat Pirates on walk-off HR again

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Rookie Kolten Wong gave St. Louis its second straight game-winning ninth-inning home run, connecting off Ernesto Frieri with two outs for a victory over Pittsburgh.

Frieri (1-1) got two routine outs before Wong, batting eighth, hit his third homer on a full count.

The drive over the right-field wall, which was estimated at 420 feet, was the first game-winning homer of Wong's career and it came a night after Matt Adams hit his first winner off Justin

Wilson in a 2-0 victory.

The Cardinals last had consecutive game-winning homers when Albert Pujols twice beat the Cubs on June 4 and 5, 2011.

Wong also gave the Cardinals the early lead with a two-run double in the second.

Trevor Rosenthal (1-4) struck out Starling Marte on three pitches with two on to end the ninth.

METS 8, BRAVES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Rookie Jacob deGrom struck out 11 in seven shutout innings and also delivered a table-

setting hit from the No. 8 spot in the batting order and New York tagged All-Star Julio Teheran and Atlanta. Curtis Granderson kept up his resurgence with a leadoff home run and Lucas Duda doubled twice, singled and drew two walks. Daniel Murphy also doubled twice and third baseman David Wright added two of New York's 18 hits and made a nifty catch.

The shaggy-haired deGrom (2-5) pitched the Mets to their third win in a row, and the franchise's 4,000th

victory since starting out as an expansion team in 1962. Atlanta has lost three straight.

DeGrom allowed seven hits, walked none and matched a career best for strikeouts.

REDS 4, CUBS 2, GAME 1.

REDS 6, CUBS 5, GAME 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jay Bruce homered in the opener, and then helped Cincinnati pull off its biggest comeback of the season for a doubleheader sweep over the Cubs.

Continued on page 21



St. Louis Cardinals' Kolten Wong (16) watches his walk-off home run in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Tuesday, July 8, 2014 in St. Louis. The Cardinals beat the Pirates 5-4. Associated Press

Blackhawks, Toews, Kane reach 8-year extensions

JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks gave their high-scoring forwards Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane eight-year extensions worth \$84 million each on Wednesday.

Toews and Kane have been among the Blackhawks' top performers in a long run of success that includes Stanley Cup titles in 2010 and 2013. Toews and Kane led Chicago back to the Western Conference final this year, where it lost to the eventual NHL champion Los Angeles Kings.

General manager Stan Bowman said all along that the extensions were his biggest offseason priority, and it didn't take very long to reach the agreements with Pat Brisson, who represents both players. Toews and Kane each have one year left on their five-year extensions from December 2009, and July 1 was the first day they could sign new deals.

Each contract is worth \$84 million for an average annual value of \$10.5 million, according to a person familiar with the

situation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not announce the contract numbers.

Toews and Kane made it clear right after the Game 7 loss to Los Angeles that they wanted to stay with the Blackhawks, who added #8MoreYears to their tweets about the deal.

"There's nothing we want more as players than to continue to win Stanley Cups for the best hockey fans on the planet," Toews said in a statement released by the team.

Toews, the No. 3 selection in the 2006 draft, was just 20 when he became the 34th captain in team history in July 2008. He is regarded as one of the NHL's best two-way players, winning the 2013 Selke Trophy as the league's best defensive forward.

Kane, the top overall pick in the 2007 draft, has developed into one of the NHL's most clutch players after questions about his maturity dogged the dynamic winger for the first part of the career. He had the series-clinching



In this March 6, 2014 file photo, Chicago Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews (19) celebrates his goal with Patrick Kane during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Columbus Blue Jackets in Chicago. The Blackhawks have agreed to eight-year contract extensions with captain Jonathan Toews and star forward Patrick Kane.

Associated Press

goal in Game 6 of the 2010 Stanley Cup finals at Philadelphia, and won the Conn Smythe Trophy last year as playoff MVP. The \$168 million worth of extensions for Toews and Kane mean the Blackhawks have much

of their core group locked up through the 2016-17 season. Bowman could face some sticky situations with the salary cap in the coming years, but his team should be a Stanley Cup contender for a while. □

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World Cup

Continued from Page 17

This time, Van Gaal had used up all three substitutions by the end of extra time and Cillessen had to face the shootout. Van Gaal said he would have made the same keeper swap if he'd had a substitution left.

The young Ajax goalkeeper got a hand to Rodriguez's decisive powerful shot, but could only deflect it into the roof of the net, and then collapsed onto his knees and sank onto his back. Krul walked across the pitch to console him.

Van Gaal said he even had a hand in Romero's heroics, having trained him at AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league.

"Penalties are always a matter of luck," he said. "And I taught Romero how to stop penalties so that hurts."

Many of Argentina's players stripped off their shirts in the rain at the Itaquerao Stadium and danced in front of their fans.

Argentina reached its fifth final, and its first in 24 years. It won the title in 1978 — beating the Dutch — and in 1986. It lost the cham-



Netherlands' goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen reacts after being scored on by Argentina's Maxi Rodriguez during a penalty shootout after extra time during the World Cup semifinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Argentina at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo Brazil, Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Associated Press

pionship matches in 1930 and 1990. It played West Germany in both the '86 and '90 finals.

The Netherlands, which has never won the World Cup, was seeking to reach its fourth final.

The tournament's second semifinal had been billed as a showdown between Messi and Arjen Robben, but both star dribblers

were subdued. Instead it was midfield controllers Nigel de Jong and Javier Mascherano who stood out as both sides' defenses marked two of the World Cup's biggest stars out of the game.

When Robben finally broke free in stoppage time, Mascherano's perfectly timed sliding tackle blocked his shot at the near

post.

De Jong, who recovered from a groin injury to start, lasted just over an hour before being replaced by Feyenoord midfielder Jordy Clasie, who made his World Cup debut.

After scoring 10 goals in three group matches, the Dutch scoring dried up in the knockout rounds. The team managed two late

strikes against Mexico but failed to find the net before eliminating Costa Rica in the quarterfinal shootout.

"The issue in a championship like this one is that you score one more goal than your opponent, which we didn't do," Van Gaal said, "We didn't create very much."

Argentina also has found goals hard to come by in Brazil, not winning any of its matches by more than a one-goal margin and recording back-to-back 1-0 wins over Switzerland and Belgium in the knockout stages.

The two sides' attacking impotence was highlighted by a 73rd-minute free kick by Messi from the right corner that sailed over everybody and out of play. Dirk Kuyt followed suit a minute later by sending a long ball off the other end of the pitch.

Argentina tried to finish the match in the second half of extra time, but when the chances came Rodrigo Palacio headed tamely at Cillessen and Maxi Rodriguez mishit a volley.

"Argentina didn't create very many opportunities, if any," Van Gaal said. "So there was a balance in the match." □

Spieth returns to site of U.S. PGA Tour breakthrough

LUKE MEREDITH
AP Sports Writer

Jordan Spieth's remarkable rise on the U.S. PGA Tour began with a spectacular bunker save at the John Deere Classic last year.

Now Spieth has returned to the Quad Cities to defend the title that helped launch his career.

Then just 19, Spieth became the youngest tour winner in more than 80 years when he holed out from a bunker on No. 18 and survived a playoff at TPC Deere Run.

"My golf world has changed completely since last year at this time," Spieth said.

"I'm sure I'll have a lot of adrenaline. Even just thinking about this week more than other weeks has brought a little faster heartbeat to me, and that's a really cool thing." Spieth went on to win



Jordan Spieth, left, signals a great putt by one of his amateur teammates including Sam Allen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Deere & Company, right, during the Pro-Am round of the 2014 John Deere Classic golf tournament at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill., Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Associated Press

rookie of the year honors last season, and he's sixth on the money list this year. The only thing missing from

Spieth's sparkling resume is another win. He finished second at the Masters, and has strung

four consecutive top-20 finishes, including a tie for 11th at the Quicken Loans National two weeks ago in Bethesda, Maryland.

"I've been anxious for another win because of how good this felt last year, and I had a lot of close calls, and I feel like I'm knocking on the door again," Spieth said.

The field in the Quad Cities typically doesn't match that of other events because it's usually held the week before the British Open.

Still, Spieth should face plenty of competition from the likes of Zach Johnson and Steve Stricker, who combined to win the last four tournament titles before Spieth.

Johnson, who grew up in nearby Cedar Rapids, won in 2012 and earned a spot in last year's playoff.

Johnson has struggled of late though, following up a tie for 40th at the U.S. Open by missing the cut at the Travelers Championship.

But Johnson will be making his 13th start at TPC Deere Run.

"I've got some confidence here," Johnson said, "but heck, that's happened many times, and I've come out and laid an egg. I mean, I'm just going to go play."

Stricker, 47, has been playing a limited schedule for a few years. But he has always managed to fit this tournament into his schedule, much to the chagrin of the rest of the field. Stricker won three straight at Deere Run from 2009-11, and strong recent performances at the Memorial and U.S. Open showed he was still competitive. □

Au revoir, Froome: Tour champ drops out in Stage 5

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

ARENBERG, France (AP) —

An injured wrist was just too much for Tour de France champion Chris Froome, in one of the most memorable and crash-marred stages in recent race history.

The Kenyan-born Briton ended his repeat bid Wednesday, dropping out of cycling's big event and dropping a bombshell on his competitors after crashing twice in a rain-, mud-, sweat- and blood-soaked fifth stage for the pack through nerve-wracking cobblestones along France's border with Belgium.

The 29-year-old Team Sky leader, already nursing pain in his left wrist a day earlier, first scuffed up his right hip, tearing his uniform, then scraped his face. Both falls happened even before he got to the start of 13 total kilometers (8 miles) over joint-jangling cobblestones.

He was the best-known of several big-name riders who crashed on Wednesday. They found out months ago, when the course was announced, what they would face on



Netherland's Lars Boom crosses the finish line to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 155 kilometers (96.3 miles) with start in Ypres, Belgium, and finish in Arenberg, France, Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Associated Press

the roads from Ypres, Belgium to Arenberg Porte du Hainaut. It's the same big bumps known to racers of the celebrated Paris-Roubaix one-day race.

What they couldn't foresee was the rain, which slickened roads and unsettled many rider nerves — and psychology was crucial to surviving the stage. Before

Froome crashed, Sky sporting director Nicolas Portal said it best: "His wrist hurts a bit, but it'll be a question of mental as well today," according to the Tour's Web site.

Before the stage, Froome had said that the biggest concern about the cobblestones was not riding over them, but the ner-

vousness of the peloton as riders jockey to get up front, which is considered the safest place to be.

Froome didn't speak to reporters after his second spill on the day at around the halfway mark. Wincing and limping, he shook his head at a Team Sky staffer, walked over to a team car, and climbed in. The team

said later that he was already on his way home.

On Twitter, he wrote that he was "devastated" to withdraw: "Injured wrist and tough conditions made controlling my bike near to impossible." Froome wished luck to new Sky leader Richie Porte of Australia and his other teammates for the rest of the race.

Sensing the danger from the rain, race organizers scrapped two of the nine scheduled cobblestone patches, and reduced the stage by three kilometers (two miles). But that still wasn't enough to stop many riders from tumbling.

"It's devastating for Chris and for the team," Sky boss Dave Brailsford said. "We really believed in Chris and his ability to win this race. But it's not to be this year."

The last time a defending champion abandoned the Tour was five-time winner Bernard Hinault of France in 1980, according to French cycling statistics provider Velobs.com.

The withdrawal of the pre-race favorite left the Tour wide open with 16 stages still left.

Continued from page 18

The Reds overcame a 5-0 deficit in the second game, sending Chicago to its fifth straight loss.

Bruce doubled home the tying run in the eighth. Billy Hamilton then had a broken-bat RBI single in the ninth off Hector Rondon (1-3) for the Reds' first doubleheader sweep since 2009 against Pittsburgh.

The Cubs have been swept in all three of their doubleheaders this season. They haven't won a game since trading starters Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel to Oakland for a package of prospects.

In the opener, Bruce returned to right field and hit another two-run homer, connecting off Travis Wood (7-7) during a three-run first inning.

Johnny Cueto (9-6) extended his stretch of

success against the Cubs. He is 5-0 in his last seven starts against Chicago with a 1.19 ERA.

Chris Coghlan homered in both games and helped the Cubs get in position for a split, but Chicago's bullpen couldn't hold on.

PHILLIES 9, BREWERS 7 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Domonic Brown homered and had a two-run single and Philadelphia rallied from a big early deficit to outlast struggling Milwaukee.

After allowing five runs in the first inning, the Phillies scored five in the second off Brewers starter Wily Peralta (9-6). Ben Revere drove in two runs with a ground-rule double and Chase Utley had a two-run single as Philadelphia sent 10 men to the plate. Koyie Hill contributed a run-scoring single.

The first-place Brewers have dropped seven of eight games. Kyle Kendrick (4-8)

picked up the victory for Philadelphia despite giving up 11 hits and seven earned runs over 5 2-3 innings. He walked two and struck out two.

Four Phillies relievers combined to hold the Brewers scoreless over the final 3 1-3 innings. Jonathan Papelbon pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 21st save in 23 attempts.

MARLINS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1 PHOENIX (AP) — Marcell Ozuna hit a two-out, two-run home run off Addison Reed in the ninth inning to spoil a brilliant Arizona debut by Vidal Nuno and give Miami a victory over the Diamondbacks.

Ozuna hit Reed's 2-2 pitch off the batter's eye far above the 407-foot sign in straightaway center. It was the fifth blown save in 25 tries for Reed (1-5) and the ninth home run the closer has allowed in 38 appearances.



Colorado Rockies' DJ LeMahieu (9) congratulates Rockies' Charlie Blackmon (19) at home plate after Blackmon's two-run home run in the third inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres in Denver on Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Associated Press

Nuno, acquired in the deal that sent Brandon McCarthy to the New York Yankees, gave up three hits, struck out a career-high seven and walked one in seven innings. He scored Arizona's only run. Mike Dunn (7-4) pitched one-third of an inning to get the victory.

ROCKIES 2, PADRES 1 DENVER (AP) — Charlie Blackmon hit a two-run homer and Franklin Morales pitched effectively into the sixth inning, helping Colorado beat San Diego. Morales (5-4) turned in another solid outing since being reinserted into the starting rotation on July 3.

Surging A's beat Giants for sixth straight win

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— **OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** —

Sonny Gray struck out eight to win his third straight decision, and the Oakland Athletics beat the San Francisco Giants 6-1 on Tuesday night for their sixth consecutive victory.

Coco Crisp hit an RBI single and stole his 16th base and Nick Punto doubled in a run during a four-run third against Madison Bumgarner (9-7), handed his second three-start skid of the year.

The lefty didn't allow a hit until Jed Lowrie's blooper leading off the third that landed in front of a charging right fielder Hunter Pence, who avoided a collision with second baseman Joe Panik.

Oakland did all its damage that inning on the way to matching its season-high winning streak.

The A's (57-33) concluded their homestand 6-0, just the 11th undefeated homestand of six or more games in Oakland history. The low-budget club with baseball's best record has won 11 of its past 12 games at the Coliseum.

TIGERS 14, DODGERS 5

DETROIT (AP) — Justin Ver-

lander settled down after a terrible first inning and Detroit rallied in emphatic fashion for a victory over the Dodgers.

Verlander (8-7) allowed five runs in the first, but the Dodgers managed only one more hit off the Detroit right-hander, who has had his share of struggles this season. The Tigers tied it with five runs in the second, then added two in the third and four in the fourth to pull away. Miguel Cabrera was one of five Detroit players with three hits.

Verlander allowed five runs and five hits in six innings. He struck out four and walked two.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (9-5) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in 2 1-3 innings.

Juan Uribe hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers in the first, but Verlander retired 13 in a row after that.

The Tigers' 14 runs set a season high, as did their 20 hits. **INDIANS 5, YANKEES 3**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Michael Brantley homered and had three RBIs, Nick Swisher hit a go-ahead two-run shot and Cleveland stopped rookie sensation Masahiro Tanaka's bid to become the major league's first 13-game win-



Oakland Athletics' Sonny Gray works against the San Francisco Giants in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 8, 2014, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

ner.

Brantley hit a leadoff homer in the seventh. The first-time All-Star also had RBI doubles in the first and fifth, raising his average to .328.

Tanaka (12-4) allowed season worsts of five runs and

10 hits in 6 2-3 innings. The right-hander, who lost for the third time in four starts, took a 3-2 lead into the sixth before Swisher, a former Yankee, hit a two-run homer that put Cleveland on top.

Trevor Bauer (3-4) allowed three runs in seven innings and retired 13 of the last 14 hitters he faced. New York's only baserunner in that stretch came on Swisher's fifth-inning error. Bauer struck out six and walked two in winning for the first time since June 16. Cody Allen pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

TWINS 2, MARINERS 0
SEATTLE (AP) — Minnesota's Phil Hughes pitched into the eighth inning, Sam Fuld barely cleared the wall with his second home run of the season and the Twins beat Seattle.

Hughes rebounded from being knocked around in his previous two starts to shut down the Mariners. Hughes (9-5) gave up eight hits in 7 1-3 innings, struck out eight and didn't walk a batter in silencing Seattle's stagnant offense.

A night after Fuld could not

pull back Michael Saunders' home run, the roles were reversed. Fuld hit a 3-2 pitch from Seattle starter Chris Young (8-5) beyond the wall in right and just out of the reach of Saunders for the solo shot in the fifth inning. It was the first homer for Fuld since April 10. He finished with three hits and two stolen bases.

Glen Perkins pitched the ninth for his 21st save.

ASTROS 8, RANGERS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— Chris Carter led off two innings with home runs, George Springer had one inning-starting long ball and Houston beat Texas.

Jose Altuve had two hits, two stolen bases and a sacrifice fly. The All-Star second baseman matched Houston's franchise record with 28 consecutive stolen bases without being caught while pushing his AL-leading total to 41. He leads the American League with 126 hits and a .341 batting average.

Houston went ahead to stay with two runs in the first inning off Phil Irwin (0-1) who was making his Rangers debut.

Brad Peacock (3-5) struck out five while allowing two runs and six hits over 5 2-3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 4, ANGELS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

R.A. Dickey allowed four hits over seven innings for his first victory in more than a month, Jose Reyes homered and drove in three runs and Toronto ended a season-worst five-game skid with a win.

The Blue Jays also snapped a seven-game road losing streak and ended the Angels' 11-game home winning streak, which fell one shy of the franchise record set in 1967.

Dickey (7-8) struck out five and walked one after losing his previous four starts. The 2012 NL Cy young Award winner got back in the win column for the first time since beating the Tigers on June 4.

The Blue Jays climbed within 2½ games of the AL East-leading Baltimore Orioles, who were rained out at Washington. □

Yankees' Tanaka on DL due to elbow inflammation

CLEVELAND (AP) — Yankees rookie sensation Masahiro Tanaka has been placed on the 15-day disabled list due to elbow inflammation and has returned to New York to have an MRI on his right arm.

Tanaka, who leads the majors with 12 wins, allowed five runs and 10 hits — both career highs — in 6 2-3 innings in a 5-3 loss to the Indians on Tuesday night. The All-Star is 12-4 with a 2.51 ERA in 18 starts, but has lost three of his last four outings. Tanaka went back to New York for an MRI, but manager Joe Girardi said there is no prognosis yet.

"We won't be sure until he

actually sees the doctor, and we'll go from there," Girardi said.

Tanaka began the season 11-1 with a 1.99 ERA, but hasn't been as effective in his last four starts, going 1-3 with a 4.25 ERA. He's allowed eight home runs in his last five starts, including two on Tuesday, a two-run shot in the sixth to Nick Swisher that put Cleveland ahead and a solo blast by Michael Brantley in the seventh.

Tanaka has anchored a shaky Yankees rotation missing CC Sabathia and Ivan Nova. Sabathia is expected to have season-ending knee surgery and



New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka watches from the dugout after leaving the game in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians Tuesday, July 8, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Nova had elbow surgery in April and won't pitch again until next season. □

MIT finger device reads to the blind in real time

RODRIQUE NGOWI

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are developing an audio reading device to be worn on the index finger of people whose vision is impaired, giving them affordable and immediate access to printed words.

The so-called FingerReader, a prototype produced by a 3-D printer, fits like a ring on the user's finger, equipped with a small camera that scans text. A synthesized voice reads words aloud, quickly translating books, restaurant menus and other needed materials for daily living, especially away from home or office.

Reading is as easy as pointing the finger at text. Special software tracks the finger movement, identifies words and processes the information. The device has vibration motors that alert readers when they stray from the script, said Roy Shilkrot, who is developing the device at the MIT Media Lab.

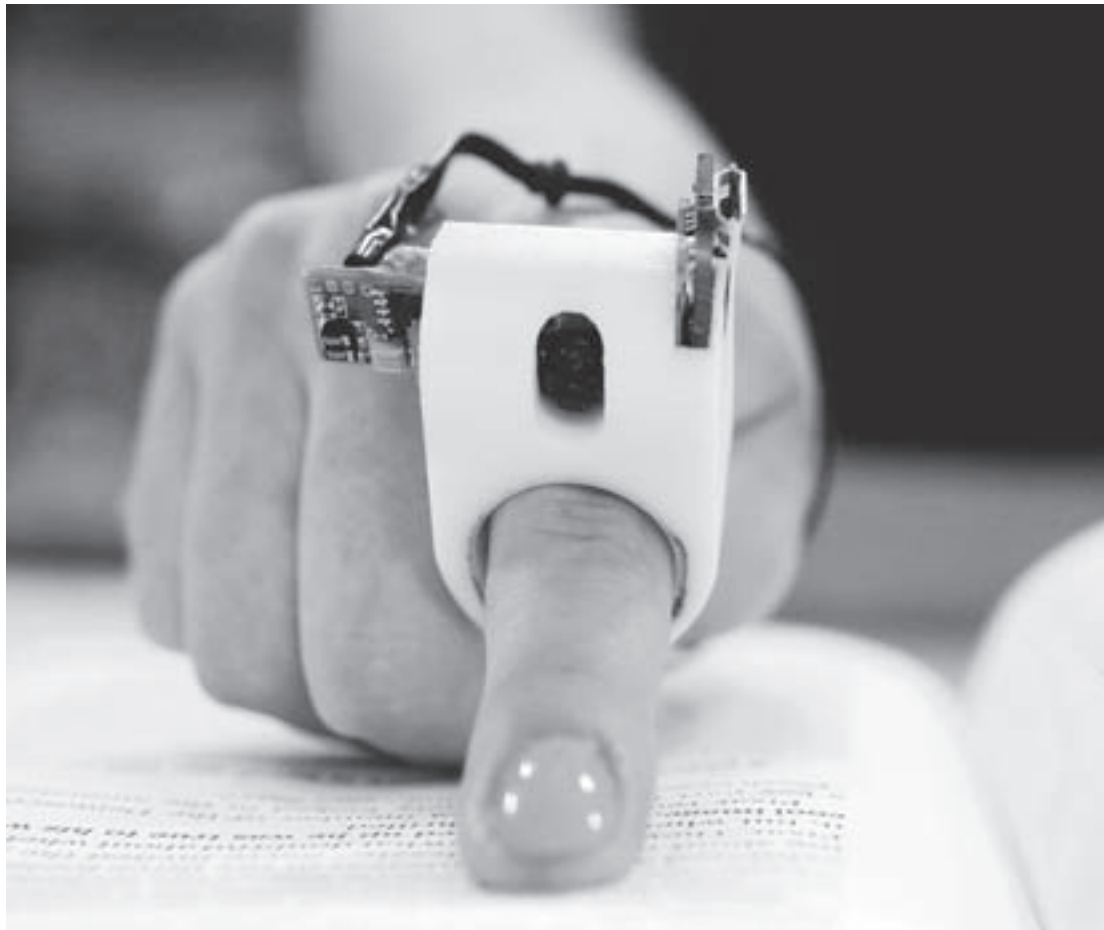
For Jerry Berrier, 62, who was born blind, the promise of the FingerReader is its portability and offer of real-time functionality at school, a doctor's office and restaurants.

"When I go to the doctor's office, there may be forms that I wanna read before I sign them," Berrier said.

He said there are other optical character recognition devices on the market for those with vision impairments, but none that he knows of that will read in real time.

Berrier manages training and evaluation for a federal program that distributes technology to low-income people in Massachusetts and Rhode Island who have lost their sight and hearing. He works from the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts.

"Everywhere we go, for folks who are sighted, there are things that inform us about the products that we are about to interact



In this Thursday, June 26, 2014 photo, a model wears a FingerReader ring at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass.

with. I wanna be able to interact with those same products, regardless of how I have to do it," Berrier said.

Pattie Maes, an MIT professor who founded and leads the Fluid Interfaces research group developing the prototype, says the FingerReader is like "reading with the tip of your finger and it's a lot more flexible, a lot more immediate than any solution that they have right now."

Developing the gadget has taken three years of software coding, experimenting with various designs and working on feedback from a test group of visually impaired people. Much work remains before it is ready for the market, Shilkrot said, including making it work on cellphones. Shilkrot said developers believe they will be able to affordably market the FingerReader but he could not yet estimate a price. The potential market includes some of the 11.2 million people in the United States with vision impairment, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

Current technology used in homes and offices offers cumbersome scan-

ners that must process the desired script before it can be read aloud by character-recognition software installed on a computer or smartphone, Shilkrot said. The FingerReader would not replace Braille — the system of raised dots that

form words, interpreted by touch. Instead, Shilkrot said, the new device would enable users to access a vast number of books and other materials that are not currently available in Braille. Developers had to overcome unusual challenges

to help people with visual impairments move their reading fingers along a straight line of printed text that they could not see. Users also had to be alerted at the beginning and end of the reading material.

Their solutions? Audio cues in the software that processes information from the FingerReader and vibration motors in the ring.

The FingerReader can read papers, books, magazines, newspapers, computer screens and other devices, but it has problems with text on a touch screen, said Shilkrot.

That's because touching the screen with the tip of the finger would move text around, producing unintended results. Disabling the touch-screen function eliminates the problem, he said.

Berrier said affordable pricing could make the FingerReader a key tool to help people with vision impairment integrate into the modern information economy.

"Any tool that we can get that gives us better access to printed material helps us to live fuller, richer, more productive lives," Berrier said. □

Associated Press

Google picks 5 charities to create ideas for Glass

BRETT ZONGKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Google has chosen five charities to develop ideas using Web-connected Google Glass to enhance their work.

After receiving 1,300 proposals, Google is announcing five nonprofits Wednesday that'll get a free pair of the glasses, a \$25,000 grant and support from developers.

Classroom Champions of Jacksonville, Florida, will use the glasses to create first-person educational videos by Paralympic athletes for high-need schools.

Lumberton, North Carolina-based 3,000 Miles to a Cure



This May 15, 2013 file shows Google Glasses displayed in San Francisco. Google has chosen five charities to develop ideas using Web-connected Google Glass to enhance their work.

Associated Press

will deliver information to riders participating in a bicycle race for charity. Mark Morris Dance Group of New York will create dance-based tools for people with Parkinson's disease.

Women's Audio Mission in

San Francisco will develop music and media-based learning programs for women and girls.

And Baltimore-based Hearing and Speech Agency will develop new ways to help people with communication difficulties. □

Alcoa helps lift market after slump

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Corporate earnings season got off to a positive start Wednesday, helping lift the stock market after two days of declines. The market opened higher and remained modestly higher throughout the day.

stocks trading near all-time highs, it's now up to companies to show whether or not these record high prices can be justified.

"Stocks are not cheap, and we need to be assured that these companies' growth is going to continue," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist

have come up with a rough timetable for when the central bank's bond-buying program will wind down, according to minutes from the bank's most recent meeting. They generally agreed that the program will end in October, if the economy continues to improve at this pace, with



Trader Robert McQuade works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, July 9, 2014. Stocks inched higher in early trading Wednesday, reversing a two-day decline, as the quarterly earnings season got underway with some positive news from the giant aluminum company Alcoa.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Stocks climbed further after the Federal Reserve released minutes from its latest policy meeting in June. The biggest gainer in the Standard & Poor's 500 index was Alcoa. The aluminum giant's earnings, which investors consider to be the official start of the quarterly corporate earnings season, came in well above Wall Street's expectations. Alcoa earned \$138 million, or 18 cents a share, compared with analysts' estimates of 12 cents a share, according to FactSet. Alcoa rose 84 cents, or 6 percent, to \$15.69.

As companies begin reporting their second-quarter results, investors will be looking for signs that the strengthening U.S. economy has translated into higher sales and profits. Analysts expect earnings increased 6.6 percent in the three months through June compared with the previous year, according to S&P Capital IQ, a research firm. Investors argue that with

with Prudential Financial. The next big name to report will be the major U.S. bank Wells Fargo, which reports Friday. The bank is one of the country's biggest mortgage lenders, and investors will be looking for Wells' outlook on the housing market.

"I'm looking for a good, but not a great, earnings season," said Michael Fredericks, portfolio manager of the Multi-Asset Income Fund at BlackRock. "We really need to see the guidance from companies, if management teams are as upbeat as the market." The Dow Jones industrial average rose 78.99 points, or 0.5 percent, to 16,985.61. The S&P 500 index rose 9.12 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,972.83 and the Nasdaq composite rose 27.57 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,419.03.

The market kept up its positive momentum following the latest report from the Federal Reserve.

Policymakers at the Fed

a \$15 billion reduction in monthly bond purchases. The Fed is currently buying \$45 billion a month in bonds and has been cutting back by \$10 billion a month at each meeting since December. The program is designed to keep interest rates low to stimulate borrowing and economic activity.

The bond market turned higher after the Fed's announcement. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell to 2.55 percent from 2.56 percent Tuesday, a reversal from earlier in the day, when yields were 2.58 percent. Bond yields fall when prices rise.

In individual company news:

— American Airlines rose \$1.73, or 4.3 percent, to \$41.98. The world's largest airline raised its sales forecast for the second quarter, typically the busiest time of year. The news helped lift other airline stocks, including Delta, which rose 1.5 percent. □

América Móvil to shed assets, loosening grip

ELISABETH MALKIN

© 2014 New York Times

MEXICO CITY - América Móvil, the Latin American telecom giant, said Tuesday that it would sell off parts of its Mexican unit, an unexpected capitulation by its controlling shareholder, Carlos Slim Helú, to strong new anti-monopoly rules.

The announcement, which could set off a shake-up in Mexico's stagnant telecommunications industry, was a victory for regulators after years of failed efforts to rein in the dominance of Slim's company.

It came just as Mexican legislators approved new laws governing Mexico's telecommunications and broadcasting industries. The laws are intended to open Mexico's telephone and media markets, which have long been quasi-monopolies, and attract billions of dollars in new investments from competitors.

Last year, the government of President Enrique Peña Nieto agreed with the opposition on constitutional changes to overhaul those industries, part of a broader effort to rein in monopolies that economists believe hold back Mexico's growth.

The changes are a central part of Peña Nieto's ambitious agenda, which includes opening up the energy industry to private investment. His hope is that his plans can jump-start three decades of torpid growth.

The laws approved Tuesday flesh out the details of last year's constitutional change. Opposition politicians and many analysts said that the final rules were much tougher on América Móvil than on Grupo Televisa, a broadcaster that dominates television in Mexico and is seen as crucial to elevating any politician's profile. (Slim owns a 17 percent stake in The New York Times Co.)

In its announcement Tuesday, América Móvil appeared to concede to a March ruling by a powerful new regulator, the Federal Telecommunications Institute, that said the company was dominant because it controlled more than 50 percent of the market.

The regulator made a similar ruling for Televisa and ordered both companies to take steps, including sharing their infrastructure with competitors, to open up the markets.

América Móvil said it would sell assets - which it did not describe - to an outside company so that its holdings would fall to less than 50 percent of the telecommunications market.

It also said that it would sell its cellphone towers and give up its option to acquire a majority in a satellite pay-television company called Dish that has 30 percent of the market.

Although the announcement by América Móvil showed the strength of the regulator's ruling, opposition legislators and analysts questioned parts of the new laws that they said would ultimately weaken their force and could even scare off investment.

The laws reduced much of the autonomy of the new regulator. They hand back to the federal government the authority to interpret the law, said Judith Mariscal, a telecommunications expert at the CIDE, a Mexico City research institute.

"That's a big thing," she said.

Without a strong, autonomous regulator, "that generates uncertainty for investment," Mariscal said.

Eli Noam, a telecommunications expert at Columbia University who has studied concentration in telecommunications markets, said that Mexico is by any measure "extraordinary" for how little competition there is. But he had high praise for the new Federal Telecommunications Institute's commissioners. □

AbbVie Backtracks on comments in Shire bid

CHAD BRAY

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LONDON - AbbVie on Wednesday retracted statements that shareholders of the Irish drugmaker Shire were supportive of AbbVie's takeover bid.

The announcement came a day after AbbVie raised its offer to about \$51 billion for Shire, which has rejected AbbVie's previous takeover offers.

AbbVie, based in Chicago, issued a statement saying it wanted to clarify news reports about its comments on the response it had received from Shire shareholders about a potential deal.

Richard A. Gonzalez, AbbVie's chairman and chief executive, had told The Financial Times that shareholders were "generally supportive" of the transaction.

"AbbVie confirms that it has not received any written commitments of support and accordingly retracts the statements," the company said.

"It acknowledges that in the absence of written statements of support from

shareholders, it is not in a position to make any statement of shareholder support" under British takeover rules.

AbbVie and its financial adviser, JPMorgan Chase,

pursue Shire in June, including a trip by Gonzalez to London last week.

AbbVie, which was spun off from Abbott Laboratories last year, is hoping to lure Shire to the negotiation

takeover rules.

Shire has not commented on the latest offer, other than to say that its board will meet to consider the proposal and to urge shareholders not to take

incorporate in Britain and save millions of dollars in taxes, a process known as an inversion. Since early May, AbbVie has made four offers to Shire, which is based in Ireland and listed in London.



Adderall XR, one of Shire's treatments for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. AbbVie is eager to acquire Irish drug maker Shire, which would allow it to reincorporate in Britain and save millions on taxes, but Shire has yet to approach the negotiating table.

(Elizabeth D. Herman/The New York Times)

The revised bid represents a 48 percent premium over Shire's closing price of 34.67 pounds (about \$59.38) a share on May 2, the day before AbbVie's first approach.

It is a particularly rich premium compared with recent deals and comes as U.S. pharmaceutical and medical device makers rush to engage in inversions to save on their corporate taxes and free up money held outside the United States.

In its latest offer, AbbVie would pay 22.44 pounds in cash and 0.8568 of an AbbVie share for each share of Shire, or about 51.15 pounds a share.

Shire's shareholders would own about 24 percent of the combined company. Shire has said the previous offers by AbbVie significantly undervalued the drugmaker and its prospects. □

have had a series of meetings with Shire's shareholders since AbbVie publicly announced its intention to

table before July 18, when it will have to make a firm offer or walk away for up to six months under British

any action regarding the proposal.

AbbVie is eager for a deal, which would allow it to re-

Citi said to be close to settling inquiry on mortgage securities

MICHAEL CORKERY

BEN PROTESS

© 2014 New York Times

Citigroup and the Justice Department are nearing a deal that could cost the bank roughly \$7 billion to settle a civil investigation into the sale of mortgage investments, people briefed on the matter said this week.

The settlement, which is expected to be announced within the next week, caps months of negotiations that grew so tense in June that the Justice Department threatened to sue if the bank did not agree to the government's proposed penalty. The deal would be made up of a monetary penalty and relief for homeowners. It would remove a huge legal obstacle that has been weighing on the

bank's share price and casting a shadow over its future.

At one point in the talks, the government demanded that Citigroup pay \$10 billion, but the total settlement will fall well short of that demand, one of the people briefed on the matter said.

The two sides are still working out some details. Citi recently raised its cash offer from \$1 billion to \$4 billion, according to a person briefed on the matter. The remainder of the \$7 billion would include so-called soft dollar penalties, including mortgage modifications and other forms of relief to homeowners, and fines to state attorneys general involved in the case.

The total amount will almost certainly exceed the \$2 bil-

lion that some Wall Street analysts initially estimated that Citigroup would be liable to pay, though more recent estimates have put the number closer to \$6 billion.

In trying to divine a possible settlement amount, bank investors are trying to determine whether Citigroup has adequate legal reserves to cover the cost or whether this penalty could cut into its bottom line.

More broadly, the bank is seeking to put to rest the issues lingering after the financial crisis while it grapples with new challenges posed by fraud in its Mexico unit and its failure to pass the Federal Reserve stress test.

The large settlement shows how the government has been able to ratchet up

the amount of money it can demand from banks for their roles in selling securities tied to shoddy mortgages whose values plummeted during the financial crisis.

Citigroup was not nearly as big a player in this business

as JPMorgan Chase, which agreed to a \$13 billion settlement with the Justice Department last year.

The Citigroup deal raises the stakes for Bank of America, which is expected to be the next large bank to settle. □



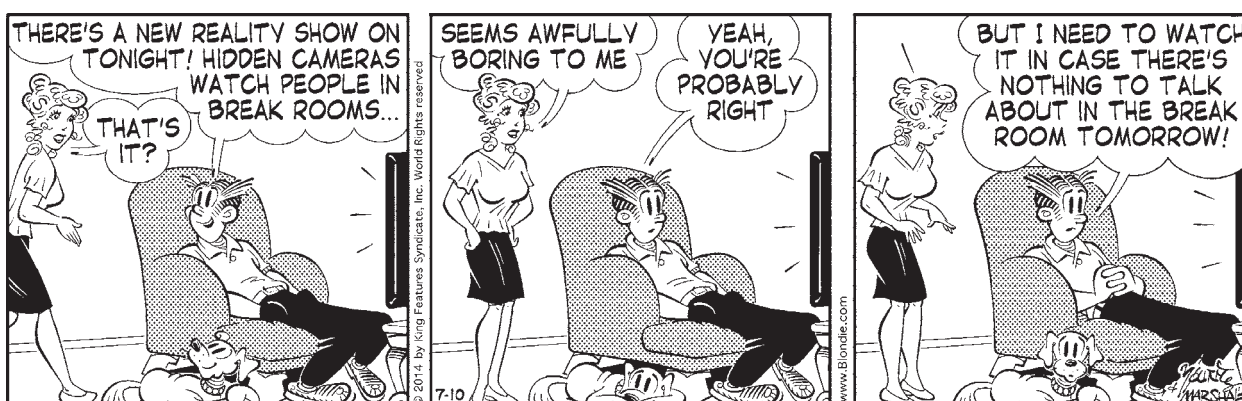
Mutts



6 Chix



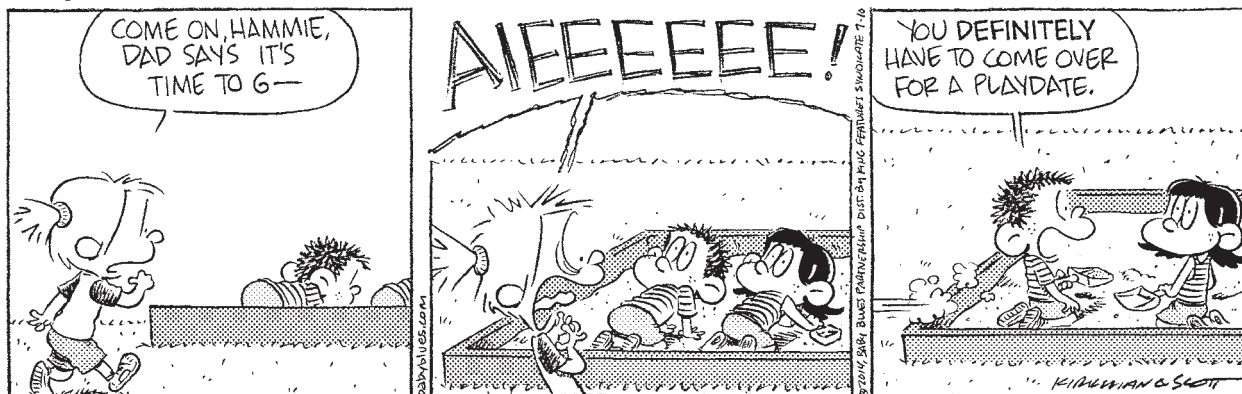
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8			2			1		9
				3		8		
6	9		7					
				9		2		7
	1						6	
3		9		8				
					5		3	4
		5		4				
9		6			3			2

Difficulty Level ★★★

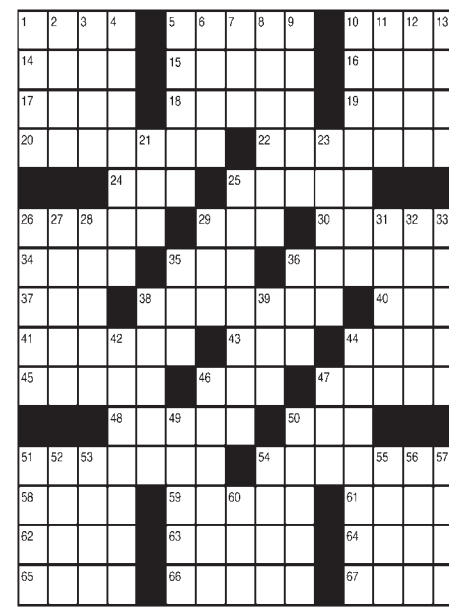
7/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	9	2	5	6	7	8	4	1
7	4	5	8	1	9	6	3	2
8	6	1	4	3	2	5	9	7
1	3	6	9	4	5	2	7	8
5	8	9	7	2	3	4	1	6
4	2	7	6	8	1	3	5	9
6	1	8	3	7	4	9	2	5
9	7	3	2	5	6	1	8	4
2	5	4	1	9	8	7	6	3

ACROSS

- Old __; fuddy-duddy
- __ apso; small long-haired dog
- Puncture
- Wheel rod
- Had a bug
- Filly trimming
- Word with corn or oat
- Common metal
- Chopping tools
- Perpetual
- Liberace or Elton John
- "What'll __"; Irving Berlin song
- Actor's first performance
- Extended family groups
- Cushion
- Great buys
- "So __"; casual farewell
- Observed
- Violin
- Terre Haute's state; abbr.
- Attitude
- VP __ Quayle
- Mel or José
- Popular dog breed, for short
- Short note
- Liberated
- Blushing
- __ gun; traffic cop's device
- Striped feline
- One of the Seven Dwarfs
- Unflinching
- Safe to drink
- Penniless
- SeaWorld performers
- Boast
- Carving tool
- Follow as a result of
- Pealed
- Foot digits
- Mates for does
- Facial features



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/10/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

DOWN

- Renown
- Plow animals
- Happy
- Shouting
- Cowboy's rope
- Strikes
- Stein contents
- Trickled out
- Impromptu
- Tilted
- Hired vehicle
- Highest cards
- Choicest
- Sullivan and McMahon
- Review of the financial books
- Slowpoke
- Precipice
- Recluse
- Tennis' Agassi
- Sillet
- Found a total
- Peruvian pack animal
- Mexican mister
- Knight's title
- Jan.'s follower

MOVE	RADAR	ONCE
AVID	ELUDE	BOON
MENS	BLOOD	HOUND
AND	SEAS	OINKS
IMPLY	ELS	
OCCURS	FALTER	
DOTTY	DAISY	CAL
OMIT	DOUBT	COCA
REV	PUNKS	TUNED
TENANT	MELODY	
ONE	REALM	
ABBOT	BAAS	ITS
REASSURING	SCOT	
CAKE	SINGE	RARE
HUES	ADDER	SLEW

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7/10/14

- Battlefield doc
- Quarrel
- Depressed
- __ list; paper full of chores
- Leak out
- Sink stopper
- Give in
- Hee-haw
- Go bad
- Walkway
- Argon & helium
- Breakfast order
- Amounts to be swallowed
- Blind __ bat

Classifieds

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U.S. scientists turn to public to help fund research

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Duke University professor Kathleen Pryer has received her share of grant money. But for her newest project, she's getting help from a retired nurse in Canada and a 17-year-old in Arkansas.

It's her first foray into the modern-day world of crowdfunding, the practice of using the Internet to raise relatively small amounts of money from a lot of people to finance a project. It's quite a departure from the normal sources of funding for scientific research, chiefly industry, government and philanthropies.

Outside of science, it's been successful for projects like developing video games and other consumer products, publishing books and making films and other entertainment programs. A campaign to finance a movie sequel to the cult television show "Veronica Mars" pulled in \$2 million in less than a day, eventually gathering more than \$5.7 million in 30 days. But "science has yet to gain Veronica Mars status," notes Jeanne Garbarino, director of science outreach at Rockefeller University in New York, who has used crowdfunding and informally advised others. Instead, scientific projects tend to be far more modest, generally raising just thousands or tens of thousands of dollars.

One researcher, for example, raised about \$2,000 to hire a truck and buy camp supplies to recover a triceratops skeleton he'd found in Wyoming. Current campaigns on the website



This undated photo provided by Duke University shows the fast-growing aquatic fern called Azolla. Associated Press

experiment.com include \$5,000 to investigate a parasite in North Carolina bay scallops, \$3,560 to study a disease of bats, and \$17,400 to tag sharks for migration research.

In one impressive success, more than \$150,000 was raised to contact an old research satellite and put it back to work.

Pryer launched a six-week campaign last month to raise \$15,000 to decipher the DNA of a fast-growing aquatic fern called Azolla. It's small enough to fit on your thumbnail, but she says learning more about the plant could pay big benefits.

Azolla captures and processes nitrogen from the air with the help of bacteria that live on it, and further study may let scientists engineer that trick into crop plants, reducing the need for fertilizer, she says. Azolla also sucks heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, making it po-

tentially useful for fighting global warming, according to Pryer.

She turned to crowdfunding after being "turned down flat" by the National Science Foundation, and rejected by other traditional sources of funds.

But her project caught the eye of Andrew Willoughby, 17, of Little Rock, Arkansas, when he learned about it on Twitter. With his interest in botany, he thought any steps toward engineering crops that get and process

their own nitrogen would be "a great idea." He pitched in \$15.

Similarly, retired nurse Ingrid Kern of Toronto was impressed by the project when she read a commentary by Pryer in her local newspaper. She tracked down Pryer's page on experiment.com and donated \$100, her first contribution to a crowdfunding campaign.

The fern "interests me because it's tiny and it has great potential," said Kern,

who'd been an industrial microbiologist before turning to nursing.

By late June, Pryer's campaign had raised only about a third of her goal, with just two weeks to go. Then things took a dramatic turn. BGI, a nonprofit institution in China that does DNA research, said it would carry out Pryer's project for free.

If that hadn't happened, "I do not think we would have met our goal," she said.

Her campaign now has a new fundraising target. She hopes to use donated money to pay for analysis of the data she'll get from BGI. The effort ends this week.

While scientists normally have to pique a donor's interest, sometimes it's public concern that leads to a project. That's what happened for ocean scientist Ken Buesseler of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

Sometime this year, Buesseler says, radioactive material from Japan's damaged Fukushima nuclear reactor is expected to arrive in the ocean off the West Coast. He doesn't believe it will be a health hazard. □

Fossils unearthed at Calif. construction site



In this Monday, June 30, 2014, the fossilized spine of a whale is photographed on a hillside at the Calaveras Dam replacement project in Fremont, Calif. Associated Press

FREMONT, California (AP) — Giant teeth from a 40-foot (12-meter)-long shark and portions of what could turn out to be an entire whale skeleton are among

the hundreds of fossils being carefully unearthed at a dam construction site in California's Silicon Valley. The San Jose Mercury News reports Monday

that over 500 marine fossil specimens have been uncovered at the Calaveras Dam replacement project in Fremont, California.

Most of the fossils are believed to be about 20 million years old, dating to the Miocene Epoch, when the ocean extended as far inland as Bakersfield.

Scallops, clams, barnacles and the teeth of an extinct hippopotamus-like creature called a Desmostylus have all been dug up.

Paleontologists will continue working with construction workers for the next two or three years on the massive job to replace the dam with one more capable of withstanding earthquakes. □



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Sigourney Weaver reprises 'Alien' role in new game

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer
BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Sigourney Weaver and the cast of "Alien" are virtually returning to the starship Nostromo. The actress who portrayed unflappable officer Ellen Ripley in the "Alien" film franchise is reprising her role in "Alien: Isolation," an upcoming video game set after the events of the original 1979 film. Weaver, who recorded new dialogue for the game, says she picked up right where she left off as tough-as-nails Ripley in filmmaker Ridley Scott's sci-fi horror masterpiece. "It was eerie how quickly it happened," Weaver told The Associated Press during a recent interview. "Honestly, I had to start with this sort of sign-off, 'This is Lieutenant Ripley of the starship Nostromo.' You know, that paragraph. I felt like no time had passed. It was really strange, actually. If anything, it was more affecting to me to read it again 35 years later."

The bonus "Crew Expendable" and "Last Survivor" levels, which will be available to those who pre-order the game, will allow players to portray Nostromo crew members Ripley, Dallas (Tom Skerritt) or Parker (Yaphet Kotto) as they



Sigourney Weaver poses at The Peninsula Hotel during press day for the Alien video game and 35th anniversary release on Sunday, June 1, 2014, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

explore the doomed ship and coordinate their efforts with Lambert (Veronica Cartwright) and Ash (Ian Holm) to lure the menacing alien into the airlock.

"We always hoped that somewhere down the line while working on this game that this reunion would happen," said Alistar Hope, the game's creative lead. "From working with Sigourney on the recordings, I really got a sense of how important this character is to her. The way that she worked on the lines and improvised unquestionably made them significantly

better." The central story of "Isolation" focuses on Ripley's daughter Amanda, who was briefly mentioned in a scene from the 1986 sequel "Aliens." In the game, created by British developer Creative Assembly, Amanda travels to a remote space station to find the Nostromo's flight recorder and encounters a creature similar to the one that terrorized her mother. "I feel like they followed through," Weaver said of the game's plot. "Emotionally, what would Amanda want? She'd want to find her mother. She's drawn to

the same line of work. There are a lot of things that were arresting to me. I have no idea what the game is like. I hope it's creepy and suspenseful and engaging in a way that other games are not — an experience." "Isolation" follows a long line of games based on the "Alien franchise, but it's the only title that Weaver has signed on to participate in and marks the first time she's reprised the part since 1997's "Alien Resurrection," the fourth film in the series that ended with a clone of Ripley arriving on Earth. (The original Ripley sacri-

ficed herself at the conclusion of 1992's "Aliens 3.") "I thought it was an interesting idea," said Weaver. "The ones I turned down — I remember one of them, anyway — was shoot the alien, shoot the marine, shoot anything that didn't move. That didn't make any sense for my character. Ripley was more interested in protecting life than annihilating it. It just didn't make any sense for me to be part of that."

Before the Oct. 7 release of "Isolation" and an anniversary edition Blu-ray of "Alien," which will include the 1979 graphic novelization of the film, Weaver is expected to reunite with "Aliens" filmmaker James Cameron to begin work on his three "Avatar" sequels. Weaver's character met her demise on the mythical planet of Pandora in the 2009 sci-fi blockbuster.

"It's a lot of cool work for me to do, so I'm excited," said Weaver, who wouldn't elaborate on her role. "I think it's going to be intense. He's going to share with the world other worlds within Pandora. I know he has a very powerful vision for the environmental message of these three films that he hopes will make a difference around the world." □

Stevie Nicks joining 'The Voice' as adviser



This May 13, 2014 file photo shows Stevie Nicks, winner of the BMI Icon Award, at the 62nd Annual BMI Pop Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stevie Nicks is joining television's "The Voice" as an adviser to Adam Levine's team for the upcoming season. Filming is currently underway on the show's seventh season. Nicks, the 66-year-old Fleetwood Mac singer, has been working with Levine and his 12 team members as they assign songs and rehearse with the contestants in preparation for the show's battle rounds.

Levine and Blake Shelton will be joined by Gwen Stefani and Pharrell Williams as coaches when the NBC show returns on Sept. 22. □

'Stand Up to Cancer' telecast to return Sept. 5



LOS ANGELES (AP) — How often do your favorite TV outlets all carry the same show at the same time — and in prime time, without ads?

Tune in to just about any channel on Sept. 5 at 8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific to see for yourself. Dozens of broadcast and cable networks will again donate a simultaneous hour of commercial-free airtime to carry the fundraiser "Stand Up to Cancer."

Participants will include

ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, HBO, Showtime, Lifetime, ESPN and many others. A Canadian broadcast is being added this year.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Joel Gallen are returning to produce the telecast for a second time, and other stars from television, film and music will encourage and accept donations from the public.

The money raised supports cross-disciplinary research toward new cancer treatments. □

In this Oct. 18, 2010, file photo, actress Gwyneth Paltrow arrives at a ELLE magazine's 17th Annual Women in Hollywood Tribute in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

A summer without swagger for Hollywood

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood's summer at the box office isn't just missing nearly 20 percent of last summer's revenue. It's lacking swagger.

Summer is the season for mega-budget, chest-thumping, globe-trotting monstrosities — films so big they lure droves of Americans with heavily promoted promises of shock and awe. But this season's blockbuster output has been curiously low on the summer's stock in trade: bigness. Two months into the summer, there haven't been any \$300 million grossers at the North American box office. The only movie to surpass \$100 million in its weekend debut was "Transformers: Age of Extinction," and it did so by such a small smidge that some box-office watchers claimed it was artificially inflated. The Fourth of July, the customary launching pad for some of Hollywood's flashiest fireworks, was the worst July 4th weekend in at least a decade.

"The first half of the year was extremely strong, as was last year," says Dan Fellman, domestic distribution head for Warner Bros. "Then all of a sudden, it turned the other way."

Since kicking off in early May, the summer box office has totaled \$2.25 billion, a 19.3 percent downturn



This photo released by Paramount Pictures shows Mark Wahlberg as Cade Yeager, in the film, "Transformers: Age of Extinction." Paramount's "Transformers" — the biggest movie of the summer — nosedived 63 percent in its second weekend.

from last summer. Propelled by hit sequels like "Iron Man 3" and "Despicable Me 2," last year was a record summer at the box office, despite a series of high-profile bombs such as "The Lone Ranger," "White House Down" and "After Earth." But when you bet big, you can also win big. While Hollywood's summer has featured no shortage of major blockbusters, it has in some ways been more content to hit a double than swing for the fences. This summer's box office has been dragged down not so much by flops than by a slate of more modestly

ambitious movies.

The only major new July 4 release was the Melissa McCarthy comedy "Tammy," made for just \$20 million. (It debuted with a lackluster \$21.6 million.) One of the season's biggest sensations, "The Fault in Our Stars," was a niche-based hit that appealed to the ardent fans of John Green's young adult book. A whopping 82 percent of its \$48 million opening weekend was female.

The ensemble comedy sequel "Think Like a Man Too" topped a weekend in June with \$29.2 million despite little crossover appeal.

Associated Press

These movies will likely all be quite profitable for their respective studios due to their cost-conscious budgets. But they aren't superhero-sized hits.

Many of the blockbusters have seen revenue quickly tumble after the first weekend or two. Paramount's "Transformers" — the biggest movie of the summer — nosedived 63 percent in its second weekend. "X-Men: Days of Future Past" opened big with \$90.8 million but slid 64 percent the following week. "Godzilla" bowed with \$93.2 million only to drop 67 percent. Large declines aren't un-

common in the blockbuster business, where so much of the marketing push is for opening weekend. But such steep fall-offs contribute to anxiety over the ability of movies to capture and hold the attention of moviegoers in an age of so many other entertainment options. (Cable television and digital media are the villains to this mindset, although the World Cup is also a box-office stealing boogie man this summer.) DreamWorks' "How to Train Your Dragon 2" was set up to be the big animated option of the summer following the popularity of the Oscar-nominated original. But it has seen an oddly muted reception, thus far totaling \$141.7 million domestically, well below the \$368 million domestic haul of "Despicable Me 2." DreamWorks Animation head Jeffrey Katzenberg has been cynical about the movie industry of late, calling it "not a growth business."

Instead, the studios have been banking on their biggest growth coming from overseas markets. Michael Bay's "Transformers" for Paramount emphasized China more than North America. It launched its global assault from there and it was rewarded by becoming China's all-time top box-office film, with \$223 million in just two weeks.

Overseas, star power and spectacle often go further than in North America. Angelina Jolie and Disney's "Maleficent" has brought in \$416 million internationally, while Tom Cruise and "Edge of Tomorrow" has nearly tripled its domestic total (\$91.4 million) abroad (\$248.6 million).

"We're in a global business today and if we lose a little ground in the domestic marketplace, we can pick it up internationally," says Fellman.

But overseas business is little use for North American theaters. Fellman notes it's the exhibitors "that are really suffering this summer."

Yanique makes U.S. Virgin Islands seem vast in debut

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

For most of us, if we think about the U.S. Virgin Islands at all, we think just of tropical resorts and hurricanes. Tiphane Yanique's debut novel, "Land of Love and Drowning," is a deft argument that a rich and complicated culture is waiting just beyond the tourists, if we dare ask some uncomfortable questions about who we are and whom we love.

Yanique is herself from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and she draws on her family heritage to craft a saga that spans generations. She makes a handful of overlooked Caribbean islands seem like a vast and vital landscape. In "Land of Love and Drowning," three generations of beautiful Bradshaw women bewitch the men of St. Thomas through the islands' transfer to American control, World War II, segregation and

the aftermath of a catastrophic hurricane. Secrets and jealousies shadow the relationship between two sisters and set them apart from other islanders as they all lurch through historical changes. In less confident hands, "Land of Love and Drowning" would have faltered and failed to reconcile its blend of myth and modernity. Yanique has written the best kind of summer read — lurid, yet layered and literary.



This book cover image released by Riverhead Books shows "Land of Love and Drowning," by Tiphane Yanique.

Associated Press

A Company Liberals Could Love



ROSS DOUTHAT
© 2014 New York Times

For a generation now, liberals have bemoaned the disappearance of the socially conscious corporation, the boardroom devoted to the common good. Once, the story goes, America's CEOs recognized that they shared interests with workers and customers; once wages and working hours reflected more than just a zeal for profits. But then came Reagan, deregulation, hostile takeovers, and an era of solidarity gave way to the age of Gordon Gekko, from which there's been no subsequent escape. There are, however, exceptions: companies that still have a sense of business as a moral calling, which can be held up as examples to shame the bottom-liners. One such company was hailed last year by the left-wing policy website Demos "for thumbing its nose at the conventional wisdom that success in the retail industry" requires paying "bargain-basement wages." A retail chain with nearly 600 stores and 13,000 workers, this business sets its lowest full-time wage at \$15 an hour, and raised wages steadily through the stagnant postrecession years. (Its do-gooder policies also include donating 10 percent of its profits to charity and giving all employees Sunday off.) And the chain is thriving commercially - offering, as Demos put it, a clear example of how "doing good for workers can also mean doing good for business."

Of course I'm talking about Hobby Lobby, the Christian-owned craft store that's currently playing the role of liberalism's public enemy No. 1, for its successful suit against the Obama administration's mandate requiring coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and potential abortifacients. But this isn't just a point about the company's particular virtues. The entire conflict between religious liberty and cultural liberalism has created an interesting situation in our politics: The political left is expending a remarkable amount of energy trying to fine, vilify and bring to heel organizations - charities, hospitals, schools and mission-infused businesses - whose commitments they might under other circumstances extol. So the recent Supreme Court ruling offers a chance, after the hysteria cools and the Taliban hypotheticals grow stale, for liberals to pause and consider the long-term implications of this culture-war campaign.

Historically, support for religious liberty in the United States has rested on pragmatic as well as philosophical foundations. From

de Tocqueville's America to Eisenhower's, there has been a sense - not universal but widespread - that religious pluralism has broad social benefits, and that the wider society has a practical interest, within reason, in allowing religious communities to pursue moral ends as they see fit.

But in the past, tensions over pluralism's proper scope usually occurred when a specific faith - Catholicism and Mormonism, notably - unsettled or challenged the mostly Protestant majority. Today, the potential tensions are much broader, because the goals of post-sexual-revolution liberalism are at odds with the official beliefs of almost every traditional religious body, be it Mormon or Muslim, Eastern Orthodox or Orthodox Jewish, Calvinist or Catholic. If liberals so desire, this division could lead to constant conflict, in which just about every project conservative believers undertake is gradually threatened with regulation enforcing liberal norms.

The health coverage offered by religious employers; the activity of religious groups on college campuses; the treatments offered by religious hospitals; the subject matter taught in religious schools ... the battlegrounds are legion. And liberals seem to be preparing the ground for this kind of expansive conflict - by making sharp distinctions (as the White House's mandate exemptions did) between the liberties of congregations and the liberties of other religious organizations, by implying that religion's "free exercise" is confined to liturgy and prayer, and by suggesting (as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg did in her Hobby Lobby dissent) that religious groups serve only their co-believers, not the common good. That last idea, bizarre to anyone who's visited a soup kitchen, could easily be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Insist that for legal purposes there's no such thing as a religiously motivated business, and you will get fewer religiously motivated business owners - and more chain stores that happily cover Plan B but pay significantly lower wages.

Pressure religious hospitals to perform abortions or sex-reassignment surgery (or some eugenic breakthrough, down the road), and you'll eventually get fewer religious hospitals - and probably less charity care and a more zealous focus on the bottom line. Tell religious charities they have legal rights only insofar as they serve their co-religionists, and you'll see the scope of their endeavors contract. But this is not a path liberals need to choose - not least because the more authentically American alternative does not require them to abandon their policy goals. (Obamacare's expansion of contraceptive coverage, for instance, will be almost as sweeping if some religious nonprofits and businesses opt out.) Rather, it just requires a rediscovery of pluralism's virtues, and the benefits of allowing different understandings of social justice to be pursued simultaneously, rather than pitted against each other in a battle to the death. □



Imprisoning the Wrong Guy



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
© 2014 New York Times

On the day after his 32nd birthday, Michael Morton returned from work to find his home in Austin, Texas, surrounded by yellow police tape.

Morton jumped out of his car and raced to the door. "Is Eric OK?" Morton asked, thinking that something might have happened to his 3-year-old son. The sheriff said Eric was fine.

What about Chris, Morton's wife? "Chris is dead," the sheriff answered.

Morton reeled after learning that Chris had been bludgeoned in their bed, and then the police arrested him for the murder.

Eric had told his grandma that he actually saw a "monster with the big mustache" hit his mother, but police suppressed this and other evidence. The jury deliberated two hours before convicting Morton of murder in 1987, and he received a sentence of life in prison. "It seemed as if the word guilty was still ringing through the courtroom when I felt the cold steel of the cuffs close on my wrists - a sensation that in the next quarter-century would become as familiar as wearing a wristwatch," Morton writes in a stunning memoir to be published Tuesday.

Chris' family turned on him, assuming him to be the killer. Eric was raised by Chris' sister and her husband, and Eric eventually changed his name to match

theirs. At age 15, he wrote his dad to say he would stop visiting him.

"I crumpled onto the bunk and just lay there," Morton writes, "clenching and unclenching my fists, feeling hot tears forming and then falling, clutching the letter to my chest as if I were trying to squeeze all the hurt out of it."

A great deal has been written about the shortcomings of the American criminal justice system, but perhaps nothing more searing than Morton's book, "Getting Life." It is a devastating and infuriating book, more astonishing than any legal thriller by John Grisham, a window into a broken criminal justice system.

Indeed, Morton would still be in prison if the police work had been left to the authorities.

The day after the killing, Chris' brother, John, found a bloodied bandanna not far from the Morton home that investigators had missed, and he turned it over to the police.

Morton had advantages. He had no criminal record. He was white, from the middle class, in a respectable job. Miscarriages of justice disproportionately affect black and Hispanic men, but, even so, Morton found himself locked up in prison for decades.

Then DNA testing became available, and the Innocence Project - the lawyers' organization that fights for people like Morton - called for testing in Morton's case. Prosecutors resisted, but eventually DNA was found on the bandanna: Chris' DNA mingled with that of a man named Mark Alan Norwood, who had a long criminal history.

What's more, Norwood's DNA was also found at the scene of a murder very similar to Chris' - that of a young woman with a 3-year-old child, also beaten to death in her bed, just 18 months after Chris' murder.

"The worst fact about my being convicted of Chris' murder wasn't my long sentence," Morton writes.

"It was the fact that the real killer had been free to take another life."

With the DNA evidence, the courts released Morton, after 25 years in prison, and then soon convicted Norwood of Chris' murder. Ken Anderson, who had prosecuted Morton and later became a judge, resigned and served a brief jail term for misconduct.

As for Morton, he's rebuilding his life. He and Eric have come together again, and he is happily married to a woman he met at church.

"Life's good now, even on my bad days," Morton told me, laughing. "Perspective is everything."

Morton has a measured view of lessons learned.

Most of the people he met in prison belonged there, he says, but the criminal justice system is also wrongly clogged with people who are mentally ill. As for complete miscarriages of justice like his own, he figures they are rare but still more common than we would like to think.

My take is that our criminal justice system is profoundly flawed. It is the default mental health system, sometimes criminalizing psychiatric disorders.

It is arbitrary, and the mass incarceration experiment since the 1970s has been hugely expensive and grossly unfair.

Prisons are unnecessarily violent, with some states refusing to take steps to reduce prison rape because they say these would be costly. And the system sometimes seems aimed as much at creating revenue for for-profit prisons as at delivering justice.

Finally, it's worth noting that Michael Morton is able to deliver this aching and poignant look at the criminal justice system only because he didn't get a death sentence.

When Morton was finally freed from prison, some of his first words were: "Thank God this wasn't a capital case." □

A Deal to Cut Corporate Taxes, but Shareholders Pay the Price

STEVEN SOLOMON

© 2014 New York Times

Medtronic is pursuing a deal to move abroad and save taxes. But few have noticed that the company's shareholders will be the ones left with a big tax bill as a result.

Oddly, some of Medtronic's largest shareholders - BlackRock, Vanguard and other mutual funds - may simply not care.

The Minneapolis-based Medtronic offered last month to buy Covidien of Ireland for \$42.9 billion. When one company acquires another, the buyer's shareholders typically do not pay taxes. The reason is simple: The buyer's shareholders do not receive anything new, they simply keep holding shares in the buyer.

Yet things are different in this deal, because Medtronic, like some other American companies, is pulling a tax maneuver known as an inversion.

As long as the shareholders of the foreign company own 20 percent or more of the combined entity, a company in the United States can adopt a new homeland for tax purposes as part of the acquisition, and in that way lowering the company's taxes and permitting the company to access cash held abroad. Pharmaceutical and medical device companies like Medtronic are leading the rush to go abroad, but the trend is spreading. Chiquita Brands, the banana company, and Destination Maternity, the maternity clothing company, are also seeking inversions, while Walgreen is contemplating such a move.

The Medtronic deal is the biggest one so far. The merger of medical device makers is structured so that Medtronic will relocate to Covidien's corporate home in Ireland, where the corporate tax rate is lower than it is in the United States.

Both companies are in the medical device business, but analysts and investors have said the deal makes sense largely because Medtronic can tap its \$12

billion in overseas cash without paying U.S. taxes.

The deal may be a win for Medtronic, but its shareholders will pay a price.

The Internal Revenue Service will treat the acquisition as if Medtronic shareholders had sold their shares. Under IRS rules, when a company moves abroad in a tax inversion, the buyer's shareholders must pay capital gains if

they receive more than their share of inversions about a decade ago. Lawmakers amended the tax code to provide that executives of companies like Medtronic that went abroad would have to pay a tax on their stock compensation. The tax is at the same capital gains tax that Medtronic's shareholders will have to pay in connection with the transaction.

But unlike its shareholders,

only in costing shareholders more as their companies just pay the tax for executives.

The real question is why shareholders at Medtronic and other companies haven't protested. After all, Medtronic's shareholders will get to vote on this deal.

One reason may be that inversions do have benefits for shareholders. By low-

ers support the Medtronic acquisition? Rational shareholders would conceivably demand that Medtronic show that the returns for going abroad will exceed 33 cents on the dollar that some may have to pay. This is particularly true when executives are getting partially covered by the company.

But the quirks of the market mean that shareholders aren't always rational.

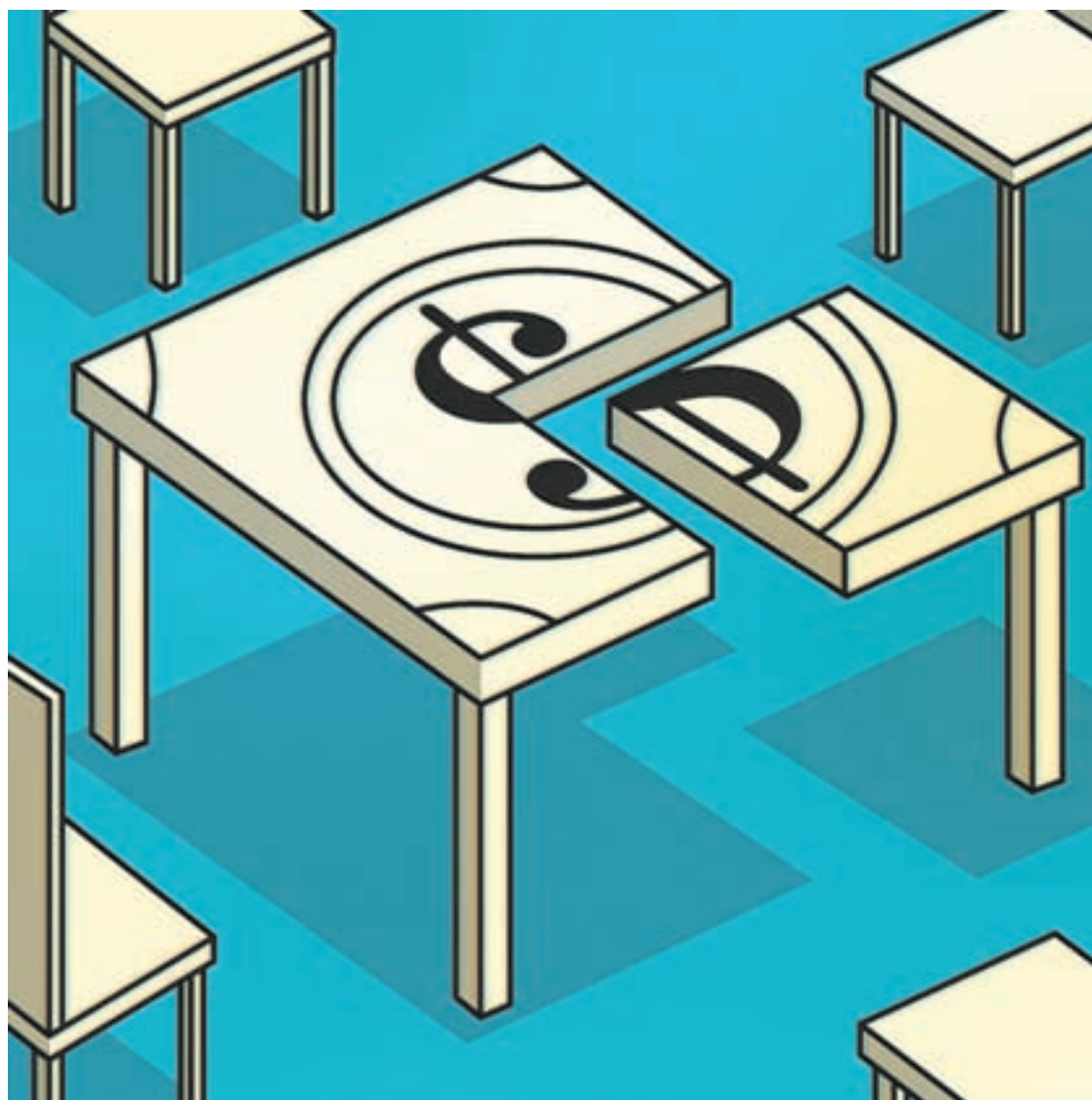
The bulk of Medtronic's shares are held by mutual funds. They hold 78.22 percent of Medtronic's shares, according to Standard & Poor's Capital IQ. The investing public holds only 14.64 percent. The top 10 holders include BlackRock, the largest with 6.5 percent of the shares.

Mutual funds don't seem to care much about taxes. The reason may be that when the returns of BlackRock and others are calculated, the taxes aren't included. These are pesky bills paid by the holders of BlackRock's funds. Shareholders only get the bill at the end of the year, and the total taxes are mixed with all other trading. So perhaps shareholders don't complain because they either don't notice or because the overall effect on them appears to be too small.

BlackRock did not respond to a request for comment. As for Medtronic, the executives who do care about their taxes will have much of that bill paid by the company. Its shares, meanwhile, will receive a pump in value that will enhance executive pay packages based on stock compensation. And the executives get much of their taxes paid by Medtronic. The costs to shareholders are ignored.

You have to shake your head. Medtronic is taking advantage of two tax loopholes here. One is the move abroad. The second, less-noticed advantage makes shareholders unlikely to protest that they are paying huge sums to subsidize the gains of Medtronic's executives.

Only in America. □



Medtronic's attempted purchase of Covidien is a so-called inversion -- pitched in part to allow the company to adopt Ireland, and its lower tax rate, as its corporate home.

(Harry Campbell/The New York Times)

they will hold 50 percent or more of the shares.

That is the case for Medtronic, and so its shareholders will be stuck with that big tax bill - up to 33 percent in California after you include the state tax. (In Minnesota, where the top capital gains tax is 7.9 percent, shareholders may pay up to 29.7 percent of their holdings in tax.)

Let's pause and reflect that Medtronic is pushing a transaction that from Day One may cost some of its shareholders as much as 33 cents on the dollar.

The sand in the eye for the shareholders is that Congress tried to halt the

Medtronic's executives will be "grossed up" by the company. Medtronic will spend millions to pay the tax obligations of its executives in connection with the transaction. At least seven other companies undertaking inversions have indemnified their executives to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, according to Bloomberg News.

But shareholders will receive nothing from Medtronic.

The gross-up highlights the absurdities of some Washington tax policies. Congress initially acted to halt inversions but succeeded

ering the company's tax rate, the company's stock price will readjust to reflect these additional earnings. Still, giving up a third of their value to endorse this transaction and reap benefits down the road seems like quite a sacrifice to ask of shareholders.

And yet Medtronic, like other companies, has been silent on the benefits to shareholders. Medtronic extolled the \$850 million in savings and benefits it estimated it could reap from a combination with Covidien, but it said nothing of how much it would save on taxes.

So why would shareholders